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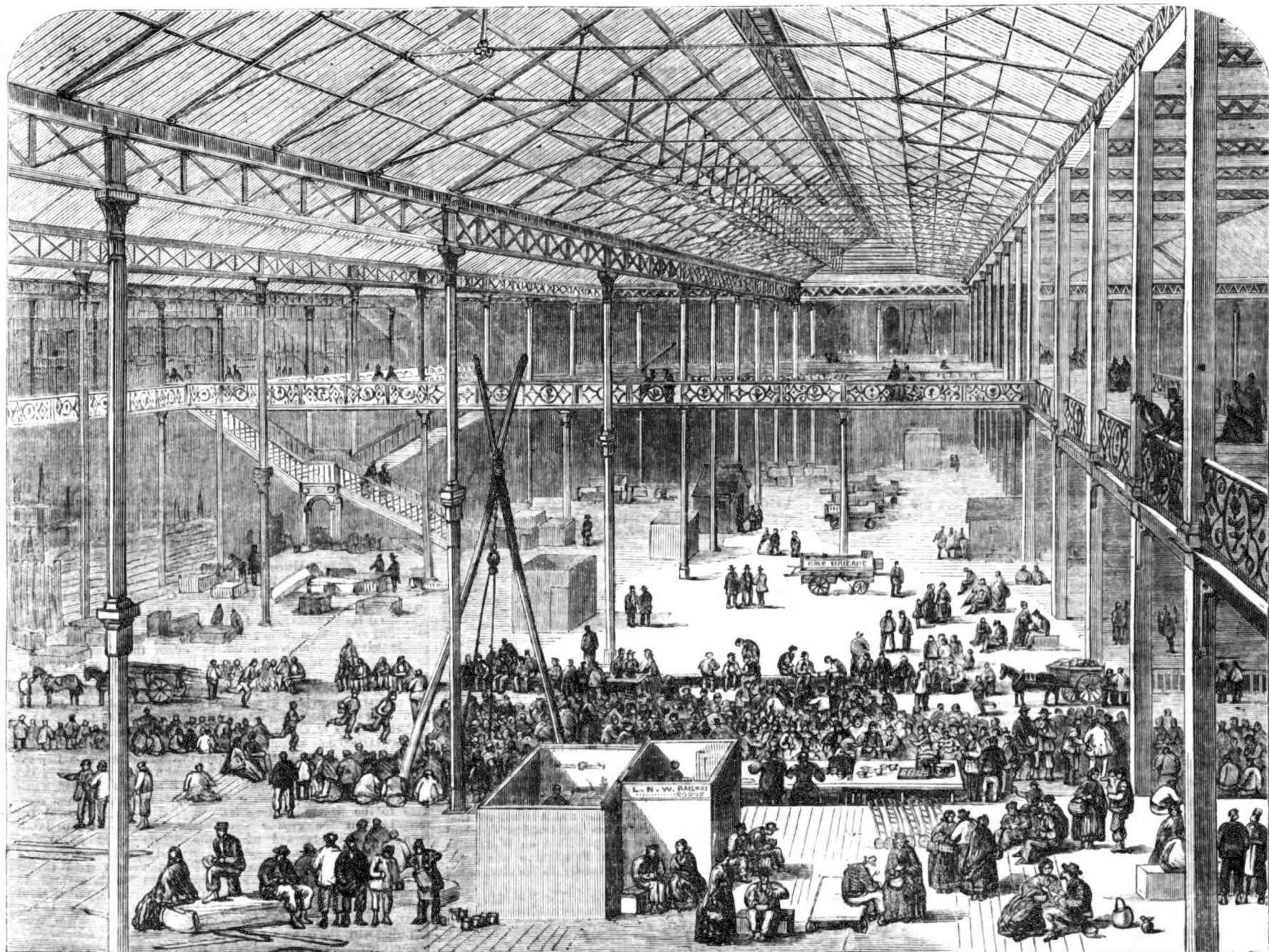
## TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

"Dimidiem facti qui bene cepit, habet," of which the vulgar translation is that the "first blow is half the battle." This is, however, a dictum rather than a truth. It is only a half truth, and by no means capable of universal application. For instance, in the case of the civil war in America, unthinking people, ever prone to admire success, and possessing also a kind of unintelligible, illogical sympathy with any revolt, after the defeat of the Federal troops at Manassas Gap, cried out exultingly that the Confederates had right on their side, and that they would be, and must be, throughout victorious. These unreasoning folk forgot in the midst of their frantic exultation that there were divers and abundant reasons why it was probable the South should be in the nature of things at first successful: they forgot that the rebellion had long been planned and plotted, and that the plot was by the Americans of the Northern States, if suspected, certainly not seen through or understood. They forgot also that the South, being a kind of bastard aristocracy, had, in imitation of other more real aristocracies, educated its younger sons to the profession of arms, and was in every respect more military in its tastes and habits by tradition and custom than the dollar-loving traders of the North. They forgot, moreover, that they had the great advantage at Bull Run of being on the defensive, and in a strong position in a country which they well knew. Had all these circumstances, and some others which it is needless to enumerate, been taken into consideration, sensible people would have arrived at the conclusion that the bird of victory would not always perch on the same standards, and that with time and training troops more numerous, supported by wealth more plentiful, would at length achieve some success. Well, to the contradiction and confusion of the wholesale and unscrupulous sympathisers with the South, the arms of the Federalists have

been of late frequently crowned with triumph. In addition to the successes described in our last two Numbers, the telegrams of this week convey news of fresh victorious achievements, and these have led to the rumours in the New York papers, not in this matter to be trusted, that the Confederates have already made some overtures of compromise. "Manhattan," the eccentric correspondent of the *Standard*, makes this assertion, and says that a document proposing an armistice of sixty days, for the purpose of discussing the points at issue between the contending parties, has been seen at New York. An armistice of sixty days would admirably suit Confederate plans, but to the North this space of time is most important, and ought to be pregnant with events of great magnitude. Whether Nashville has been taken or not—and most of the correspondents of the London papers seem to have no doubt about it—the Federal troops are daily placing themselves in more advantageous positions, commanding communications with each other hitherto denied to them. President Jefferson Davis has delivered his inaugural address at the opening of the Session of the first regular Congress held at Richmond, Virginia. It is full of hope and courage, freely and frankly admits the present disasters, but anticipates and predicts future triumphs. He has also issued a proclamation appointing a day of fasting, prayer, and thanksgiving. Great dissatisfaction is expressed by some of the American papers with the policy of President Lincoln. It is feared that he would agree to a compromise with the South, giving a general political amnesty and leaving the slave question exactly as it stands. The North will have paid a vast deal for very little if any such an arrangement were made. People are already talking of the successor to President Lincoln, and Mr. Seward is mentioned as the statesman most likely to command general support and attain the position;

and he has lately written a letter in the strongest *nolo episcopo* style, which letter will vastly increase his chance. Whatever the result of the present struggle, it will require a strong hand at the helm for some years at Washington. The birthday of the great "Cincinnatus of the West" was celebrated with much enthusiasm; and there was far less than usual of what the correspondent to whom we have before alluded nicknames "Spreadingeism." The realities of war are giving already a stability and earnestness to the American mind in which it was before deficient. Their modesty will soon quite shock those accustomed to the bluster and swagger which was such a prominent and unpleasant characteristic of their writings and speeches. They are becoming temperate and sensible in their language exactly in proportion to their actual success. They vapoured more about their flight at Bull Run than about their recent capture of Fort Donelson. "Jupiter hates the boastings of an excessively arrogant tongue," sagaciously observe the sapient chorus in one of the plays of Sophocles, and we suppose the Yankees have been reading the Attic dramatist.

French politics continue to possess many points of interest. The storm of discussion in the Senate and Corps Législatif has not yet lulled. The excitement occasioned mainly by the brilliant and extraordinary speeches of Prince Napoleon has not yet died away. Not only Paris and France, but the rest of Europe, are astonished at the freedom of speech in which members of the Opposition have indulged. M. Jules Favre denounces the *espionage* to which he has himself been subjected, and which is one of the most odious and irritating evils of the present despotic rule. Others complain indignantly of the restriction of the liberty of the press. The Roman question, however, is the main difficulty, the greatest stumbling-block to general concord and unanimity. It is indeed a grave problem how to



WORKMEN AT DINNER IN THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION BUILDING.



aid the aspirations and struggles of the Italian people for national unity without giving Rome to them as their capital; and yet, if Rome is given to them, it can only be done by the withdrawal of the French troops, a step which would probably be looked upon with grief and indignation by a vast number of the Catholics of Europe. "Davius sum, non Œdipus," may indeed be the reply of any ruler, however sagacious, when called upon to solve such a riddle as this. The eldest son of the Church will find it a difficult task, however placable and persuasive his language may be, to induce his Holiness to abdicate his temporalities; and it may be a more dangerous policy still to force such an act upon him and thereby stir up and awake all the hornet-nests of European Ultramontanism. At the same time it is difficult to see on what honest grounds the claim of the Italians to be allowed to consolidate their national unity, with Rome as the capital, can be denied, especially as it seems certain the people of Rome are themselves eager to throw in their lot with the rest of the country. What a whole nation desires it is dangerous, as it is unjust, for foreigners to refuse. But the obstacles in the way of a solution of the Roman question are unquestionably great; and their removal is not a thing to be rashly and inconsiderately attempted. The policy indicated by the new Ministry at Turin appears to be one of caution and moderation; may they be enabled to work it out in such a way as not to compromise the general peace of Europe!

In Prussia the political world is in a dangerous state of excitement; and a letter from Frankfort states that, to prevent any surprise from a popular movement, the Government have taken military measures of precaution by selecting certain points of the capital as strategical positions from which to quell any sudden revolutionary outbreak.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

THE building for the International Exhibition may now be regarded as virtually finished, and the work of erecting stands and counters will be immediately commenced.

Goods continue to arrive. Last week a block of red granite arrived from the Zollverein weighing no less than fifteen tons. This was got out of the waggon by means of screw-jacks, and slid down at one of the entrances in the Cromwell-road, when it was found that it was at exactly the furthest point from the place in which it was to be exhibited. It had, therefore, to be screwed up into a waggon again, taken round to the western annexe for machinery in motion, and along the brickwork tramway for the passage of heavy machinery, till it could be landed as near as possible to its ultimate destination. Before sending it on this journey, however, it was thought advisable to open a part of the case, when it was found that this great mass was most carefully packed in cotton wool, for the whole block is most elaborately carved and polished. Of course, the parts of the floor over which this great weight passes will have to be doubly shored and strengthened, and a solid foundation built under the spot on which it is to rest. Yet this block is very far from being the heaviest of the articles expected. Krupp's ingot of cast steel weighs more than twenty-one tons, and there is a single wrought-iron forging coming the weight of which is no less than forty-three tons. All these must, of course, rest upon foundations of concrete and brickwork, such as will be made all down the nave for the fountains, obelisks, and trophies which will be placed there. Foundations are being excavated in the south-eastern transept for a pair of cast-iron gates which are to be exhibited by the Colebrookdale Company; and the first trophy is up in the nave in the form of a mast of a light-ship, to be hereafter surmounted with its lantern and light.

The chief consignments of goods lately received have been from the Zollverein, Prussia, Russia, and Austria, but a good deal more has still to come from each country. The English exhibitors are very dilatory in sending their things, and this backwardness may give rise to increased trouble and labour when the time for opening arrives. None of the French goods have arrived in the building yet, but their commissioners have mapped out the ground floor of their court most admirably, so as, while economising their space to the utmost, to allow everything to be seen by leaving ample floor way round the cases for the passage of visitors.

Under the energetic care of Mr. Clark the annexe for machinery in motion is fast advancing. The steam and exhaust-pipes are conveyed under ground at the bottom of a square brick trough, along the top of the side walls of which is laid a tramway, by which all the heaviest machinery will be brought up the annexe to their stations. The engine-house and lofty chimneys are nearly built. In the former will be six very large boilers, capable of supplying the machinery with from 60lb. to 70lb. of steam. The steam-pipes are fitted at every length of 45ft. with hollow discs or drums of wrought iron, to allow of contraction and expansion, and the whole length of piping is laid in gradually diminishing diameters, at an incline of 1 in 100. A simple but very ingenious self-acting drain provides for the escape of the water condensed at the lowest end of the pipes. The shafting for working all the machine is to be conveyed along each side of the annexe in handsome fluted cast-iron columns, 10ft. high and 10ft. apart. These rest on bedplates, bolted through slabs of stone to similar bedplates placed beneath masses of concrete about 4ft. below the earth, so that each individual column will be as rigid and immovable as the building itself. Some of the groups of machinery in this annexe will be very large and powerful; two in particular, for which foundations are being excavated, are steam-pumps of 40-horse power. One is for draining waste lands, and will be worked to show the body of water it can pump out, raising it to a low elevation; the other will be to show the mass of water it can discharge after raising it high. There are to be some powerful steam-hammers here, and here also must be put the "stamper" or quartz-crushing machine which has been sent from Australia with a cargo of gold quartz for its supply.

The interior of the domes is now painted, and so also are all the transepts and the nave. The effect of the colouring, now that all is finished, can be fairly realised; and the general tone is even richer and more beautiful than had been anticipated. The interior of the domes is expected to be as effective as the nave; but it is impossible to judge of this fully till the whole of the scaffolding is removed. The least favourable appearance which the domes present is decidedly from the outside, where the lines of sashbars, instead of converging towards the top, are seen cutting the ribs of the dome into a series of small, sharp angles, that have the most unpleasant effect. This malarrangement takes off at least 50c from the apparent height of the domes, and, with the square, dumpy terminal towers of the picture-galleries, is the most unfavourable external feature in the building. Inside, however, it is all that could be wished, and it is believed that it will prove, beyond a doubt, the best-adapted building for exhibiting purposes that has yet been designed, here or elsewhere.

There are at present about 4000 men of every conceivable branch of trade employed in and about the building; but it is anticipated that in a few days their number will be greatly reduced—probably not more than 500 will then be required, who will principally be

occupied in removing the dome scaffolding and in erecting counter spaces for the exhibitors. Our Engraving represents the men at dinner—always an interesting as well as a necessary part of each day's proceedings. The scene of the illustration is laid in the part of the building used as a conveyance road for goods, carts, waggons, &c., and is kept unobscured from the grand entrance right through the building. A little before twelve o'clock little knots of women, with baskets variously furnished, are seen branching off to all parts of the building; trucks are wheeled in, and tables improvised of planks and boards, on which are spread out soup, puddings, and other light eatables. At twelve the long, loud notes from the engine-whistle send swarming from all quarters men and boys all eager to fall upon the good things provided for their refreshment. Half an hour is the limit, so the serving out is a hasty operation. The men seat themselves about in groups, some with their wives beside them; and clergymen distribute tracts and preach amidst the hubbub. Presently the whistle is heard again, and the place is soon completely cleared. A slight difficulty arose a few days ago between the contractors and a portion of the workmen—the painters and decorators—engaged on the building as to being allowed time for tea when required to work overhours; but we believe the matter has been arranged by the wishes of the men being acceded to.

### Foreign Intelligence.

#### FRANCE.

The attention of politicians in Paris is now concentrated on the debates in the Corps Législatif, and the bold tone adopted by M. Jules Favre is generally admired. The hon. deputy's speech is said to have been read in most of the principal workshops, amid demonstrations of applause from the workmen. The leading points of the speech will be found in another column.

The *Pays* says it has received information that the Allies have advanced without obstacle to the immediate vicinity of Mexico.

#### ITALY.

King Victor Emmanuel has been extremely well received at Milan. On appearing at the theatre he was welcomed with an enthusiastic burst of applause, with which his Majesty seemed much pleased. Particulars of the composition and programme of the new Ministry will be found elsewhere. The Provision Committee has been holding meetings in Genoa for some days past. On Sunday a meeting of 300 popular delegates was held in the Paganini Theatre. A great crowd assembled. Garibaldi, who had accepted the presidency of the meeting, was much cheered on entering the building. In his speech he said:—"I am happy to preside at this meeting of the representatives of the great Italian family. I deplore the absence of the representatives of those provinces still excluded from our union." Garibaldi took an oath to deliver those provinces, and exhorted the people to concord and the union of the forces of the nation in the same manner as the fasces are bound together. "Then," he continued, "we shall vanquish all tyranny and extend freedom beyond the peninsula to every enslaved people." A resolution has been passed by the committee authorising Garibaldi, who has been elected president of the association, to demand of the Government the recall of Mazzini. The committee has adopted the principles of universal suffrage, and will address a petition to that effect to the Italian Parliament. The Government has warned the Provedimento Committee of Genoa to assume a calmer tone, intimating, at the same time, that it will otherwise be compelled to dissolve the association.

The excitement still continues in Rome. The arrest of M. Venanzi, of the National Roman Committee, made an immense sensation. Everybody talked about it; and all sorts of reports were in circulation about the papers seized at his house by Captain Chigi, of the gendarmes, who was commissioned by Mgr. de Merode to execute the search-warrant. It was given out that a list of the members of the "national committee" was found, and also a list of reactionists, whose motions they think it desirable to watch. This much is certain, that Captain Chigi had received most accurate information about his prisoner. He knew what drawers and desks to open rather than others to find the papers he wanted. The archives of the committee were kept in a room carefully locked up, and which Signor Venanzi refused to open, alleging that it was let to a M. Boccafogli, an army surgeon; but when the latter was sent for he repudiated the tenancy, and then the door was broken open. The papers seized were at once sent to Mgr. de Merode, while Signor Venanzi was conveyed to the gaol of St. Michael. Captain Chigi has been promoted, and a large reward given to the person who betrayed Signor Venanzi.

Another bombshell burst on Saturday afternoon near the Church of Santa Brigita, Naples, but without injuring anybody. Immediately on this becoming known a popular demonstration took place. Shouts were raised of "Evviva Italia!" "Evviva Garibaldi!" Advice received from Naples announce that a band of brigands, under the command of Crocco Schiavone (not to be confounded with Chiavone), which endeavoured to enter the Calabria, had been prevented from so doing by General Remi, who obliged them to return to the neighbourhood of Lake Tetoli. According to news from Rome, 700 brigands were marching towards the frontiers of the provinces of Sora and Aquila. The Bourbon Committee had, it was said, engaged Francis II. to put himself at the head of the reactionary bands.

#### AUSTRIA.

In the Chamber of Deputies, on Monday, the Government introduced bills proposing an augmentation in the price of salt, and raising the tax upon beetroot sugar. It is estimated that these measures will increase the revenue by 5,000,000 florins and 1,000,000 florins respectively.

#### PRUSSIA.

A political crisis has occurred in Berlin. M. Hagen proposed a resolution in the Chamber of Deputies to the effect that the details of the Budget submitted to the Chamber should be enlarged by inserting a specific statement of the principal items of revenue and expenditure, based upon the estimates of the different departments. A debate upon this motion ensued, in the course of which the Minister of Finance declared that it was a question whether government would be practicable after the adoption of such a motion; whether the responsibility of conducting public affairs could be undertaken; and whether the proposition did not encroach upon the Executive. The motion was, however, agreed to by 171 to 143. The Ministers thereupon tendered their resignations to the King, which, however, his Majesty declined to accept; and, after a lengthened consultation, a decree was promulgated dissolving the Chamber, which then dispersed after giving a cheer for the King as a demonstration of the loyalty of the members to his Majesty's person. A new election is expected shortly to take place, and it is believed that a Parliament of still more liberal tendencies than that just dissolved will be returned. A Royal decree was published on Wednesday appointing Prince Hohenlohe Inzellingen, President of the Upper House, to preside provisionally over the Ministry, in the place of the Prince of Hohenzollern.

Considerable excitement prevails in Berlin. The King is greatly irritated that the Chamber should dare to pass any resolution of which the Government did not approve, and positively refused to make any concession to the popular branch of the Legislature on the point at issue—a course which, it is said, the Crown Prince recommended. His Majesty has surrounded himself with a council of military men, of whom alone he makes confidants and with whom only he advises. Disturbances seem to be apprehended, as all the principal points in Berlin have been occupied by the military, and measures taken to put down with a strong hand any popular demonstration that may be

made. A letter from the Prussian capital thus describes the feeling of King William and the measures he and his advisers have adopted in the existing state of affairs:—

His Majesty has received an education strictly military, accustomed to obedience and discipline, the resistance and opposition he has met with as a constitutional King, either from the Ministry or from the Chambers, irritate him beyond measure. He thus prefers the company of officers, and discusses all the great political questions with the members of his military Cabinet. This has given an opening to reaction, which, moreover, has the support of most of the Princes of the Royal family, the Crown Prince alone appearing favourable to liberal tendencies. It is said that the Government is already taking precautions for the 18th of March, the anniversary of the Revolution of 1848. It is evident that disturbances are feared, although the public mind is averse to anything of the sort. It is said that various secondary Governments have requested Prussia to support the National Verein and put down Progressist tendencies.

One of the Ministers, M. Barthmann Hollweg, declined to sanction the decree dissolving the Chamber, and has consequently resigned office.

#### ELECTORAL HESSE.

In a sitting of the Federal Diet on Saturday the representatives of Austria and Prussia proposed the re-establishment in Electoral Hesse of the Constitution of 1831, in due conformity with the federal laws, and with the proviso also that the rights of the Estates should be respected.

Herr Goddau, present Minister for Foreign Affairs, has been intrusted by the Elector with the formation of a new Ministry.

#### RUSSIA AND POLAND.

Thirteen judges of the peace in the government of the Tver have refused to carry out the law for the emancipation of the serfs passed Feb. 19, 1861. The Provincial Assembly of the Judges of the Peace made a report of this circumstance to the Minister of the Interior, who issued orders that the offenders shall be brought to St. Petersburg to be tried by the Senate. This has accordingly been done, and the refractory parties have been committed to the fortress of Cronstadt.

A letter from Warsaw of the 6th inst. reports that quiet continues to prevail in the city, but that the severe measures adopted by the authorities are in no way relaxed. The military still bivouac in the streets and public places, the public gardens remain closed, and patrols go through the entire city regularly day and night. No arrests have been made of late, but the political prisoners in the citadel still await their release. Very many have already been transported to Russia and Siberia. On the occasion of the anniversary of the Emperor's accession an amnesty was granted to a number of prisoners incarcerated for trifling offences, and the imprisonment of others was mitigated.

#### THE HERZEGOVINA.

The Turkish Government has informed the Powers that the last assembly of the insurgent chiefs at Cetigne having proved the participation of the Montenegrins in the disturbances in the Herzegovina, it is compelled to renounce its system of moderation towards them. Omar Pacha is said to be master of all the important positions.

Luco Vucalovitch, having apparently lowered his pretensions, has quitted the Sutorina. Omar Pacha has, therefore, countermanded the orders he had given for the advance of the Turkish troops.

#### CHINA.

At the date of last advices from China the rebels were moving in the direction of Shanghai. A proclamation had been issued by the Consuls of the allied Powers declaring Shanghai to be under their protection. Reinforcements had been sent thither by the Pearl. Disturbances had broken out in Cambodia, Cochin China, and the Siamese Government had sent a large naval and military force against the insurgents.

#### MEXICO.

The news from Mexico is to the 9th of February. The local diseases of Mexico had begun to tell severely on the allied army, the Spaniards particularly suffering terribly from yellow and typhus fever. No further advance had as yet been made by the Allies, though it was promised that they would do so by the 20th. General Prim is said to be very harsh towards some of the people of Vera Cruz, levying forcible supplies upon them. The Mexicans were arming in all directions, and the determination expressed is to resist to the last.

#### HONDURAS.

News has been received at Havannah of a frightful revolution now raging in Honduras, commencing at daybreak on the 11th ult., at Comayagua. The first victim was the President, Don Santos Guardiola, who was assassinated at his own door.

### THE WAR IN AMERICA.

#### GENERAL NEWS.

THE papers from America supply us with some further details of the war in the Western States. The Federals still continue to make progress. They have captured Clarksville, Tennessee, and, according to reports, Nashville also, the Confederates having retired and taken up a position at Murfreesboro', about thirty miles south of Nashville. General Beauregard is said to have about 60,000 men under him there. A union feeling had developed itself in Tennessee, and the Provost Marshal of Clarksville had summoned a meeting of the Legislature for the purpose of annulling all the unconstitutional acts lately passed. Two Confederate regiments from Clarksville had given themselves up, saying they were tired of fighting against the Federal flag, and several officers of Tennessee had declared that that State would soon go back into the Union.

The Confederate General Price had been brought to bay, and, according to accounts received in New York, beaten at a place called Sugar Creek, in Arkansas. On the coast General Burnside is said to be embarking his troops, preparing for another expedition.

General Halleck has forbidden the stealing or concealing of slaves, assigning as a reason the urgent necessity of proving to the Southern people that the Federals come not to destroy the Constitution, but to restore peace and safety to the country. Rumours of a very early movement of the army on the Potomac are again current. The President has taken military possession of all the telegraph lines, and military supervisors of messages have been appointed. Journals publishing unauthorised military news will be punished.

Both Houses of Congress have passed the Treasury Note Bill. The 50,000,000 dols. of notes heretofore authorised will be received in payment of duties, but, apart from this, some duties on imports must be paid in coin, which will be pledged for the payment of the interest on the notes and bonds. In the Senate, on the 22nd, a discussion arose on the question of the proposed presentation of rebel flags to the Senate as trophies. Several senators opposed the reception, on the ground that these flags were tokens taken from armed rebels, and whom the Senate could not recognise in any national aspect. Several senators supported the presentation, on the ground that the flags were tokens of the bravery of the Federal troops. The Senate refused to receive the flags by a majority of 9. The nomination of General Scott as Minister Extraordinary to Mexico has been sent to the Senate. A son of President Lincoln is dead, and the Congress, sympathising with the father's grief, adjourned.

#### THE SOUTH.—INAUGURATION OF JEFFERSON DAVIS.

Jefferson Davis was inaugurated at Richmond on Feb. 22 as President of the Southern Confederacy for six years. In his address, after reviewing the events of the rebellion, he says:—

Although the contest is not ended yet, and the tide for the present is against us, the final result in our favour is not doubtful. The period is near



at hand when the North must sink under a load of debt, which has assumed dimensions which will oppress future generations.

If foreign acquiescence in the pretended blockade has deprived us of foreign trade, it is fast making us self-supporting and independent.

The interests involved in the present struggle are not only Southern. The world at large is interested in opening the Southern markets. After their recognition the Southern States will offer most favourable markets for foreign manufactures. Cotton, rice, tobacco, and sugar would furnish an attractive exchange. The constancy of supplies would not be disturbed by war. The Confederate strength would be too great to tempt aggression, and the character of Southern productions would make the people too much interested in foreign commerce wantonly to disturb it. The Constitution admits no war of conquest. Civil war cannot occur among States held together by religion only. This voluntary association does not, however, diminish the security of the obligations by which the Confederates may be bound to foreign nations.

At the time the States seceded they proposed a settlement on the basis of common liability for the obligations of the general Government. At the darkest hour of the struggle a permanent Government takes the place of the Provisional Government.

After a series of successes and victories we have recently met with serious disasters, but in the heart of a people resolved to be free disaster stimulates to increased exertion.

President Davis had appointed Friday, the 28th ult., as a day of fasting, humiliation, and prayer throughout the Confederate States.

#### THE CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

The Confederate House of Representatives had been warmly debating the conduct of the war, and considerable censure had been cast by some of the speakers on the Confederate Secretaries of War and the Navy. An offensive policy was strongly advocated, and at the latest dates the following resolution was pending:—

Resolved,—That whatever propriety there may have been in the original adoption of what is known as the defensive policy in connection with the prosecution of the pending war for Southern independence, recent events have already demonstrated the expediency of abandoning that policy henceforth and for ever, and that it will be the duty of the Government of the Confederate States to impart all possible activity to our military forces everywhere, and to assail the forces of the enemy wherever they are to be found, whether upon the land or water, with a view to obtaining the most ample indemnity for the past, and the most complete security for the future.

#### THE NEW ITALIAN MINISTRY.

##### COMPOSITION OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE following is the composition of the Ministry which has just entered upon office at Turin:—Rattazzi (Presidency and Foreign Affairs, with the provisional direction of the Home Department), Cordova (Grace and Justice), Pettiti (War), Sella (Finance), Persano (Marine), Depretis (Public Works), Pepoli (Agriculture and Commerce), Mancini (Public Instruction). It is reported that the Marquis Villamarina will shortly be intrusted with the portfolio of Foreign Affairs. The name of Signor Rattazzi has been so long before the public that most persons must be familiar with it and have some knowledge of the character and career of the new Minister. He has held several public offices, among them that of Premier during the brief retirement from power of Count Cavour after the peace of Villafranca in 1859. He was the friend, though whilom rival, of Cavour; is a man of liberal opinions, and mild but, it is said, facile disposition. He has recently filled the position of President of the Chamber of Deputies. Of his colleagues the following particulars may be interesting:—Signor Cordova, Minister of Grace and Justice is a Sicilian, and by profession an advocate. He has, however, never attended the courts, but has long resided at Turin, where he is known for his proficiency in economical studies. He was Chief Secretary of the Ministry of Finance, and afterwards Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, under Count Cavour. Signor Pettiti, Minister of War, was Chief Secretary in that department under General La Marmora. He was made a Lieutenant-General after the war of 1859, and resigns the chief command of the second army corps to take office. He is a Piedmontese. Signor Sella, Minister of Finance, who is also a native of Piedmont, is a distinguished engineer, and represents Biella, his native town, in Parliament. He was formerly appointed Chief Secretary in the department of Public Instruction on the recommendation of Count Cavour. Admiral Persano, Minister of Marine, is well known as the captor of Ancona and the besieger of Gaeta. Signor Depretis, Minister of Public Works, a Piedmontese, is one of the most distinguished members of the Turin Bar. In the Chamber he sat on the benches of the Left. He was for a time pro-Dictator of Sicily, having been appointed after the taking of Palermo. Signor Pepoli, Minister of Agriculture and Commerce, is a son of a Princess Murat. He was sent to Turin by Bologna, his native town, in 1859, to obtain the annexation to Piedmont, and afterwards was elected deputy. Count Cavour appointed him Commissioner Extraordinary of the King in Umbria, when he decreed an important measure, the suppression of convents. In the Chamber his place was with the left centre, and he has acted with the friends of Signor Rattazzi. Signor Mancini, Minister of Public Instruction, is a Neapolitan of great reputation as an advocate and juriconsult. He was one of the emigrants, and has long practised at Turin. After the annexation of Naples he was sent thither to preside over the department of Justice. He is a professor in the University of Turin, and was appointed by the King to read constitutional law with the Royal Princes his sons.

#### POLICY OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

In the Chamber of Deputies, on Friday week, the new Ministers took their places on the official benches.

Signor Rattazzi, in announcing to the Chamber the foreign policy which would be followed by the Government, said:—

We shall depend upon the alliance of France and England. We shall secure the friendship of other nations by the wisdom of our conduct and by provoking no one either by deeds, speeches, or demonstrations. We do not wish to compromise the peace of the world on the Roman question. We shall follow the deliberations of Parliament, and shall, above all, employ for the solution of that question moral and diplomatic means. We shall put into execution all the laws and orders of the day voted by the Chamber relative to the national armament. We shall produce the Budget for 1863, and realise a strict economy in all the branches of the administration except in the armament.

Signor Lanza requested explanations, on account of the late Ministerial crisis having taken place without the exercise of Parliamentary influence.

Baron Ricasoli replied that the former Cabinet, notwithstanding the favourable divisions it obtained, was not sure of the confidence of the Chamber.

Reports, however, continue to be circulated to the effect that the fall of the late Cabinet was the result either of manoeuvres among its own members or of a Court intrigue, backed by the influence of the Emperor Napoleon, to whom Baron Ricasoli was not believed to be agreeable. Fears are entertained that the policy of Signor Rattazzi will be too much that of subserviency to France.

Signor Cordova is pointed at as the member of the late Government who had played false to his colleagues, and, on its being reported that he had been appointed to the Ministry of the Interior, a meeting of the Left Section (the extreme party) in the Chamber was held, and a deputation waited upon Rattazzi to remonstrate against the appointment. Signor Cordova was thereupon transferred to the department of Grace and Justice. A deputation was also sent to ask the opinion of Garibaldi as to what should be the conduct of the party supposed to more especially represent his views, and the following is given as the substance of the General's reply:—

1. That he approved of the step taken with regard to Cordova. 2. That the new Cabinet had engaged with him under pledges of the highest importance—such as must respond to the wishes so ardently felt by the country. 3. That the accomplishment of one of these pledges was to be made, and that he should not return to Capri, but that he would wait in Turin or in Genoa. 4. That this pledge is of such a nature (he did not explain what) that order and tranquillity will immediately follow in the southern provinces, and all the difficulties there be smoothed away. 5. That whilst

waiting for the accomplishment of these promises it would be necessary to remain cautiously uncompromised. 6. That the Ministry had promised him to maintain itself independent of all manner of foreign influence, and that in the internal and the foreign policy it will labour for the accomplishment of the national programme—Rome, the capital of Italy. 7. That he had declared to the King and the Ministry that he would preside at the meeting of the Committees of Provision on the 9th of March. 8. That the Italian people must remain firm to their programme—Italy and Victor Emmanuel.

The precise nature of the promises made to Garibaldi has not transpired; but that illustrious patriot is reported to have expressed himself entirely satisfied with the results of the interview he had had with the new Premier.

At a meeting of the members of the Chamber of Deputies, on Wednesday, the majority and the Left passed, by 92 against 4, a resolution to support the Ministry.

#### THE FRENCH CORPS LEGISLATIF.

##### SPEECH OF M. JULES FAVRE.

THE French Government seems to have trouble enough on its hands. Now that the war of words has for the time ceased in the Senate, the Lower Chamber has taken up the work of criticism. The debate on the Address in the Corps Legislatif gives M. de Morny as much trouble as it did M. Troplong in the Senate, and several smart passages of arms have occurred between the President and MM. Olivier, Picard, and Jules Favre. Five of the extreme Opposition (or Republican) deputies have moved an amendment on the Address, and several of them have spoken very strongly in condemnation of the Government on the subjects of the press, the elections, the policy in Rome, and the law of public safety. In the course of those speeches M. de Morny repeatedly interrupted the speakers, and a smart exchange of repartee ensued.

On Saturday last the sitting was of a most animated character, the climax being marked by a masterly speech by M. Jules Favre in support of the amendments proposed by the five members of the Left. M. Favre defended individual liberty and the liberty of the press, and denounced in the strongest terms the interference of the Government with electoral and municipal proceedings. He examined the report of M. Fould, the letter of the Emperor, and the consequences which had resulted to the institutions of the country, and asked if it was wise, or even safe, to keep the public mind under Government tutelage. He said that at present there is in France but one journalist—the Emperor; all others are but vassals, obliged to bow their heads before a warning or a communiqué—things which constitute a usurpation of the judicial power and a penalty arbitrarily applied, amounting to confiscation of property. Elections, as now conducted, he observed, were a negation and a mockery, for all the Mayors are compelled, under penalty of losing their posts, to make the officials vote in the sense determined by authority. He concluded by bitterly attacking the law of general safety, so called, he said, doubtless, "because it alarms everybody."

The speech caused great sensation. We subjoin some extracts from it:—

The President of the Council of State has inveighed against the pretension of a small number of deputies who arrogate to themselves the right of speaking in the name of the country. What are we, in fact? An imperceptible dust escaped from the skilfully-arranged mechanism that works in the elections. What do we represent? Some millions of electors. Never was such language held in a free assembly. And, unless it be maintained that a majority is always in the right, it must surely be admitted that the minority is entitled to express its opinion upon all sorts of things, on condition that it does not violate either the rules of decorum or the laws. But the character of the deputy must not be degraded under the pretext of making the laws respected. Precisely because an assembly is invested with the right of voting the laws, it is superior to them, and the right of criticising existing laws cannot be denied to the minority.

After some happy quotations from a speech in favour of the freedom of the press made "at another epoch" by M. Baroche, now a Minister and a denouncer of that principle, M. Jules Favre continued:—

In France there is a superior director of thought, in so far as it can express itself through the periodical press. The press is placed under a régime which has not yet been applied to books and pamphlets, doubtless because the press is the surest and most potent means of scrutinising the acts of the Administration. Its efficacy is the very thing for which it is grieved by our laws. Books and pamphlets are but secondary means, so they are allowed more liberty. Be assured that if they were of the same importance as the journals they would be subjected to the same régime. If this rigorous measure is good for the journals, why is it not good for books and pamphlets? and if it is bad for books and pamphlets, why is it good for the newspapers? The Government arrogates to itself such extraordinary prerogatives that the question naturally suggests itself why it does not apply them to every kind of manifestation! From the chair whence it issues avertissements it can give lessons on religion, morals, history, as already it does on politics—and on nature. If it acts thus, it is because it deems itself more learned, more moral, more religious than anybody; but then why does it not prescribe the limits of what one may say upon each and every subject? This system is not new—it reigned before 1789. It might in those days be said that the brain of France was in the monarch's hands. Fortunately it escaped at times from his grasp, but we all know how; it was by the benefit of the Reformation, which had opened asylums for freedom of thought in several parts of Europe. It makes one shudder to think that the "Esprit de Lois" would have been unpublished for France if there had not been presses in those days in Holland and London. At the present day there is but one sole journalist in France—namely, the Emperor.

M. Baroche, the President of the Council, made a reply to M. Favre, in which he contended that the Government only interfered in elections when it was necessary, and that the press had rather too much liberty in France than otherwise.

#### THE MONTAUBAN DOTATION.

Though the Dotation Bill for General Montauban was withdrawn, a new one has been introduced, granting 4,000,000*fr.* to the Emperor, to be at his disposal for rewarding military services generally. There is said to be a strong feeling of opposition to this measure also, which is meant to conciliate the Army. The general belief is that the proposal in this new form will also be rejected by the Chamber; and the Government seems to be aware of this, for no further action has been taken beyond the notification of the measure.

#### IRELAND.

THE INCUMBERED ESTATES COURT.—Since the beginning of November, 1858, the Landed Estates Court has made no less than 1162 orders for sale, and the numbers have been increasing year by year. Ninety-two of these orders were for the sale of unincumbered estates, the owners applying for a sale under the auspices of the Court. The rest were of incumbered estates, 654 of the orders upon the petition of incumberancers, and 416 upon the petition of the owners.

THE ARRAN ISLES.—Dr. Brodie, Poor-law Inspector, has visited the Islands of Arran, off the coast of Galway, and reported favourably as to their condition. The great majority of the inhabitants have sufficient potatoes for seed, or money to buy them. The owners of the islands have assisted the destitute. There is a relief committee, consisting of the Protestant clergy and Mr. O'Fishery, a Roman Catholic magistrate, and a number of persons are employed daily in making roads, fences, and other improvements, receiving meal for wages. There is no turf on the islands, but coals have been procured and are sold at nominal prices.

AMENITIES OF THE IRISH BAR.—A libel case—Armstrong v. Quinn—has lately been occupying the courts in Dublin. The case arose out of the eviction of some tenants by the plaintiff, Mr. Armstrong, whose conduct had been severely animadverted on by the defendant, who is a Roman Catholic priest. Mr. Whiteside was retained for the defence, and during the whole trial there was a conflict between the Court and Mr. McMechan, one of Mr. Armstrong's counsel, who had been provoked by an assertion of Mr. Whiteside, the leading counsel on the other side, that "it was a case that ought to bring a blush of shame on the face of the man that advised it." In retaliation, Mr. McMechan said that Mr. Whiteside should be attending his Parliamentary duties instead of being there defending "a sacerdotal slanderer." Characterising his speech for the prisoner "as mere slang, idle boast, calumnious, contemptible, vulgar, mean, and unscrupulous." Mr. McMechan stated that he had been at the Bar since 1831, and he still wore a poor stuff gown, Mr. Whiteside and his brother-in-law (Mr. Napier)

having raised forty-seven Queen's Counsel over his head. Mr. Justice Fitzgerald, in his charge, censured these unwarrantable attacks on Mr. Whiteside, which he had tried in vain to prevent. He said the case showed that all criminal prosecutions should be conducted by the Government, as in Scotland, and then they would be carried on under a due sense of responsibility. The jury was unable to agree upon a verdict, and were consequently discharged.

THE COURT-MARTIAL ON CAPTAIN ROBERTSON.—AN AFFAIR OF HONOUR.—An affair of honour has arisen out of the evidence given by Colonel Dickson on the trial of Captain Robertson, which has happily been terminated without an appeal to "the last resort." The evidence of Colonel Dickson substantially stated that Captain Robertson "and his friends" had been guilty of wilful misstatements. Captain Henry at once applied to the gallant Colonel to know if the evidence was accurately reported. The Colonel suggested that "or" and "and" was the conjunction used; but the gallant Captain and his friends did not conceive that a reference to Lindley Murray was the true mode of explaining such an imputation on the veracity of "an officer and a gentleman." The Colonel left for England, but deputed a friend to adjust the "epistolary" correspondence, who named an hour and place of meeting in London for the arrangement of "preliminaries." Captain Henry and his friends, however, impressed with the conviction that no further "preliminaries" on "British soil" could be conducted without risk of police interference, determined not to accept the invitation to the London conference, and resolved to transfer their persons to Brussels, stating to the friend of Colonel Dickson that they proceeded to that city for the double purpose of avoiding unnecessary delay and the chance of police intrusion, and that they would there await the arrival of the Colonel's friends to arrange the "preliminaries," and of the Colonel himself to conclude them. The gallant Captain and his friends accordingly left Dublin last week for Brussels; but we are glad to say that intelligence has since been received that mutual explanations have taken place, and that the affair has consequently terminated.

#### SCOTLAND.

SERIOUS FLOODS.—Last week snow fell in the neighbourhood of Selkirk to the aggregate depth of twelve inches, but partial thaws had melted a great part of what had fallen previous to Thursday week, when it fell fast and thick for fully eight hours. In the sources of the Eddick and Yarrow the fall was still greater, especially on Thursday, and in the neighbourhood of St. Mary's Loch the undrifted snow lay eighteen inches deep. By Friday morning a general fresh had set in, and the snow melted with amazing rapidity. The rivers were speedily in flood, and continued rising throughout the day until six and seven o'clock, when the combined waters of the Eddick and Yarrow presented a scene never perhaps witnessed within the memory of the present generation. The low-lying haughs were for many acres but vast lakes of water. In the early part of the day all stock near the courses of the rivers were removed to places of safety, and the damage sustained will be chiefly confined to the carryings away of embankments, fences, and soil from the fields. The losses in this way will, there is reason to fear, be very serious; but the waters were not on Saturday last sufficiently subsided to admit of their being ascertained. The Aie was also more flooded than for many years, and no fewer than four bridges have been carried away between Ancrum and Ashkirk.

#### THE PROVINCES.

THE RUGBY ROMANCE.—At the Rugby Petty Sessions, on Tuesday week, Mr. Moxon, the magistrate's clerk, in reference to the case of Mr. Guinness Hill, remarked that the counsel for the prosecution had made an application to the Judge who will try the case at Warwick to allow the prosecution to be withdrawn, as there would be no evidence in proof of guilt offered, but that the Judge had declined to acquiesce until after he had read the whole of the depositions taken down before the magistrate at Rugby, a copy of which has been forwarded. The Judge, however, intimates that he would give his decision at the Warwick Assizes, which will commence on Tuesday, the 25th of the present month.

A SUCCESSFUL DASH FOR LIBERTY.—About half-past three o'clock on Saturday morning last the night watchman at the works of Messrs. Walker and Danks, Wolverhampton, found that his dog had seized a man who had surreptitiously entered the premises. The watchman signalled policeman Turner, with whom he had just before been talking, and finding that the stranger could give no other account of himself than that he had come there to shelter himself from the cold, he was about to hand him over to Turner, when the fellow plunged into the canal, which runs by the works, and which at that point is about nine feet deep. The watchman and the policeman hastened to the opposite bank, but the fugitive had escaped.

THE DISTRESS IN BLACKBURN.—The pauperism of Blackburn, as shown by the board of guardians returns, exhibited a slight decrease last week as compared with the week previous. The number relieved in the Blackburn district of the union was 6737, against 6836 in the previous week; and the cost has decreased from £432 to £392. In the whole union the number relieved was 8799, of whom 2918 were able-bodied, and the cost £182 0*s.* 6*d.* In the previous week the number was 8791, and the number of able-bodied 2942, and the cost £255 0*s.* 2*d.* In the corresponding week of last year the number relieved was 2644, of whom 515 were able-bodied, and the cost was £144 11*s.* 5*d.* A subscription has been got up within the last few days, and now amounts to £34*s.* for the purpose of employing the distressed operatives in levelling and fencing the grounds of the infirmary, which now stands in an unfinished state; but the guardians have resolved that the work shall be done as a labour-test in return for the relief given from the rates, so that the subscription will be available for the relief fund.

TURN-OUT OF COLLIERIES IN THE WIGAN DISTRICT.—In accordance with a decision come to at a meeting recently held by the colliery-proprietors of the Wigan district, notices have been posted at the several collieries intimating that, in consequence of the general depression in trade, and in the coal trade in particular, and of the reduction of wages in other districts, it was the intention of the masters, at the expiration of the notice, to reduce the wages of the colliers 10 per cent, and the wages of surface and bottom workpeople 5 per cent. Some of these notices expired during the past week, and the result has been that a number of the colliers have turned out. The distress which prevails in Wigan and the neighbourhood, owing to the stagnation in the cotton trade and the consequent stoppage of the mills, is too great for the colliers to get support from any other branches of industry should they remain out on strike, and it is, therefore, probable that they will resume work in a few days.

COOLERS AND DARING.—On Friday evening week a poor man, named Appleton, better known as "Jim the Sweep," signalled himself by an act of heroism that can scarcely be surpassed. In one of the poorer quarters of Merthyr Tydvil, called Riverside, a small house, inhabited by a miner, was the object of endeavouring to put it out. They soon found that no one was in the house, and a neighbour, immediately this discovery was made, suddenly recollected a fact that had slipped his memory, and, in a terrific tone, shouted out "There's a cask of powder in the pantry!" A scene followed of the most startling character. The house was situated in the midst of a densely-inhabited locality, and thus in a moment those who could be aroused were seen flying from the spot, some meeting their children in their arms, others bearing away some article of household furniture. As for the crowd around the burning house, they scattered in every direction, all but one man; and he, Jim the Sweep, with perfect coolness forced his way into the house and in a moment saw the perilous nature of things. The flames had actually caught the pantry-door. Jim had to shut the front door in order to reach the pantry. This he did, and right before him was the dreaded cask, and around it a thin fork of flame! He tried to raise the cask, but it was burning hot, and instead of a top it had an iron "bakestare." With a blow he struck it off, and, though the cask burnt his hands severely, he held on with determined tenacity, and bore the powder safely out into the air, where it was soon put out of danger. A few minutes more and the powder (19*lb.* in all) would have scattered death and destruction on every side.

THE GETTIN (MERTHYR TYDVIL) ACCIDENT FUND.—As there is an impression in the public mind that a portion of the surplus fund received on behalf of the sufferers at the Hartley Colliery accident will be appropriated to the general relief of sufferers from mining accidents throughout the country, and therefore that the sufferers at Merthyr Tydvil will be benefited thereby, we deem it necessary to state that the committee at Newcastle having charge of the fund have resolved to apply it only to cases occurring in Northumberland and Durham. Noble assistance has been rendered to the sufferers in the north, and we now plead for an equally distressing cause, although not so extensive, in Wales, and trust that this explanation will conduce to help on the fund being raised at the Mansion House, London, for the sufferers at Merthyr Tydvil.

THE LOSS OF THE CONQUEROR.—The officers and crew of H.M.S. Conqueror, lately lost in the Bahamas, have arrived at Plymouth. The court-martial held to inquire into the loss of the vessel fully acquitted all but Lieutenant Gammell, officer of the watch, and Mr. Shaw, the Master, who were reprimanded and admonished to be more careful in future. The court attributed the loss of the ship to negligent allowance having been made for a western current setting in between the hours of nine p.m. on Dec. 28 and 5.10 a.m. on Dec. 29; to no allowance having been made for leeway, and no efficient nightglass being kept on deck; lastly, to the ship not having been promptly put about on the first appearance of land.



## LORD LYONS.

THE present state of affairs in America, and the complications which so lately arose between us and the Washington Government, render the position of Envoy to the United States a difficult if not a dangerous one. The firmness and moderation with which Lord Lyons has acted throughout are sufficient indications of his ability, and fully justify the choice of the Government which recognised his fitness for a mission that few statesmen could better have fulfilled.

Lord Richard Bickerton Pencil Lyons, K.C.B., son of the Admiral Lyons who commanded the fleet in the Black Sea during the Crimean War, and was made a peer for his services on that occasion, was born at Lymington in 1817, and after receiving his education at Winchester, whence he was removed to Oxford, became an unpaid Attaché at Athens in 1839, and a paid Attaché at the same place in 1844. He held the same office at Dresden in 1852, and at Florence in 1853; was nominated Secretary of Legation in 1856, and in 1858 became our Envoy in Tuscany. In the latter year he succeeded to the title, and was accredited as the British representative to the United States, an appointment which his diplomatic experience had already made him eminently capable of sustaining.

## GRAND BALL GIVEN BY THE MINISTER OF WAR AT PARIS.

ONE of those brilliant assemblies which in Paris assume almost a national importance, has been held in the saloons of Marshal Randon, the Minister of War, who invited a large number of distinguished guests to a grand ball, in rooms so magnificently decorated that even in Paris they have been a theme for public admiration.

The dancing, which was everywhere pursued with sufficient spirit, was enjoyed to greatest advantage in the grand saloon and the gallery of arms, which are represented in our Engraving. From the walls where polished steel armour and weapons glittered in the brilliant light, the sounds of the orchestra at the end of the gallery seemed to vibrate with increased power. In the entrance saloon six African lions reposed in the midst of the brilliant flowers and fan-shaped leaves of gorgeous tropical plants, and it was difficult not to imagine that they might at any moment stalk majestically amongst the assembled guests. The invitations were mostly issued to the officers of the French Army, although many of the principal Ministers of State were also

present. Amongst the diplomatic representatives were the Turkish Ambassador and two Envoys of the Shah of Persia. At two o'clock in the morning a pavilion hung with rose-

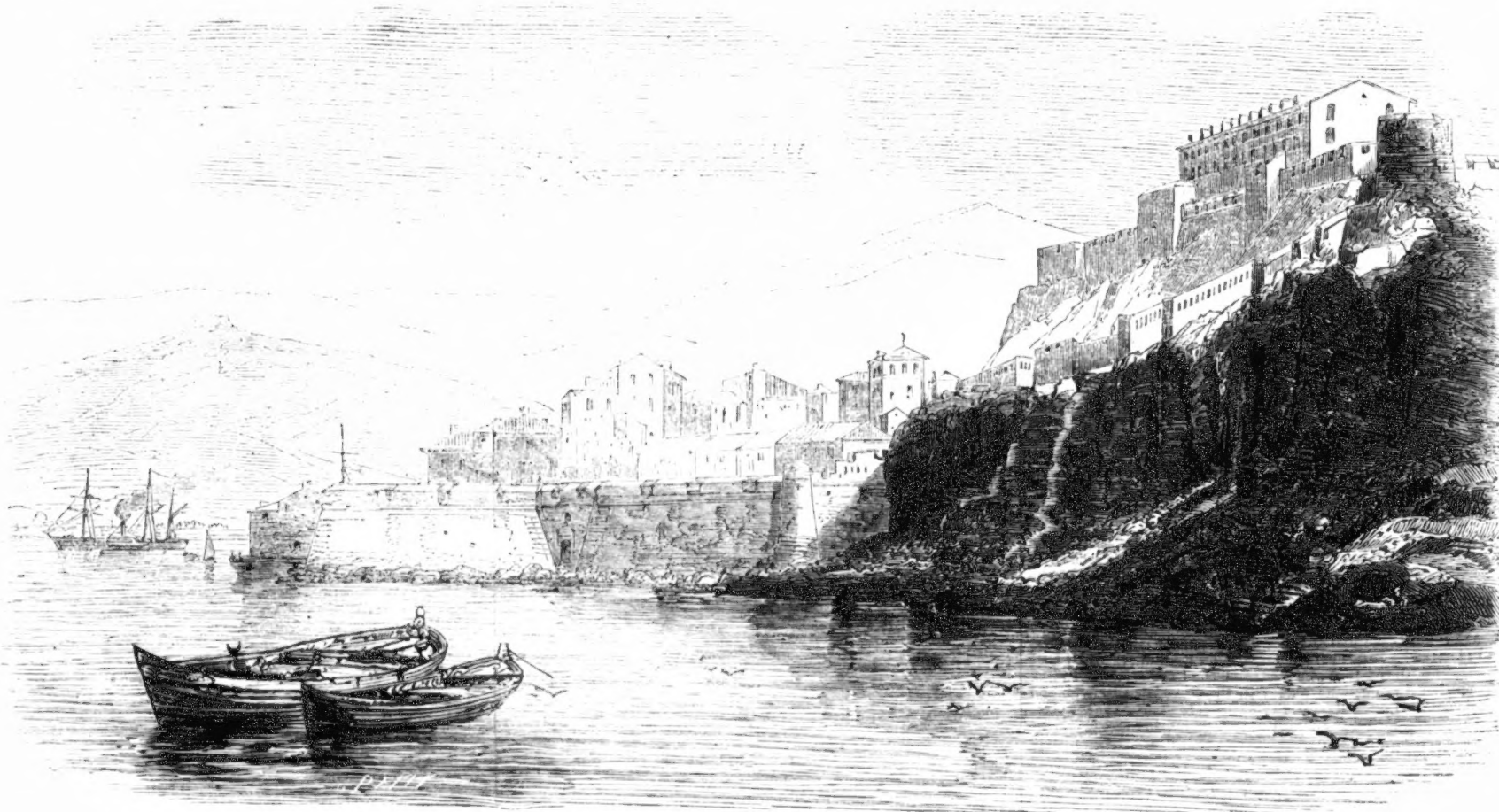
coloured drapery received such of the ladies as found their appetites equal to the task of enjoying a magnificent supper, at which they were waited upon by a deputation of the gentlemen, who volunteered to act as pages of honour. The whole of the appointments were of such a sumptuous character that the fête of Marshal Randon is already spoken of as one of the most charming réunions of the entire season.

## THE GREEK INSURRECTION.

NAUPLIA, or Napolidi Romano, the scene of the existing revolt against the Government of King Otho (or rather of Queen Amelia, for she is regarded as the real ruler of Greece), is a fortified seaport on the Morea, situated near the head of the Gulf of Nauplia, about five miles south-south-east of Argos. It is the capital of the province of Argostolis, and is inclosed by fortifications erected by the Venetians, and has two fortresses, one of which, on a precipitous rock and known as the citadel, is considered almost impregnable. Of this fortress we this week publish an Engraving. The Gulf of Nauplia, on which the town and fortresses stand, is an inlet of the Egean Sea, between the two eastern arms of the Morea. The gulf is about thirty miles long by twenty wide at the entrance, and contains a number of small islands, the principal of which—Spezzia—is situated near its mouth. The River Xeria, on which the city of Argos stands, flows into the Gulf of Nauplia.

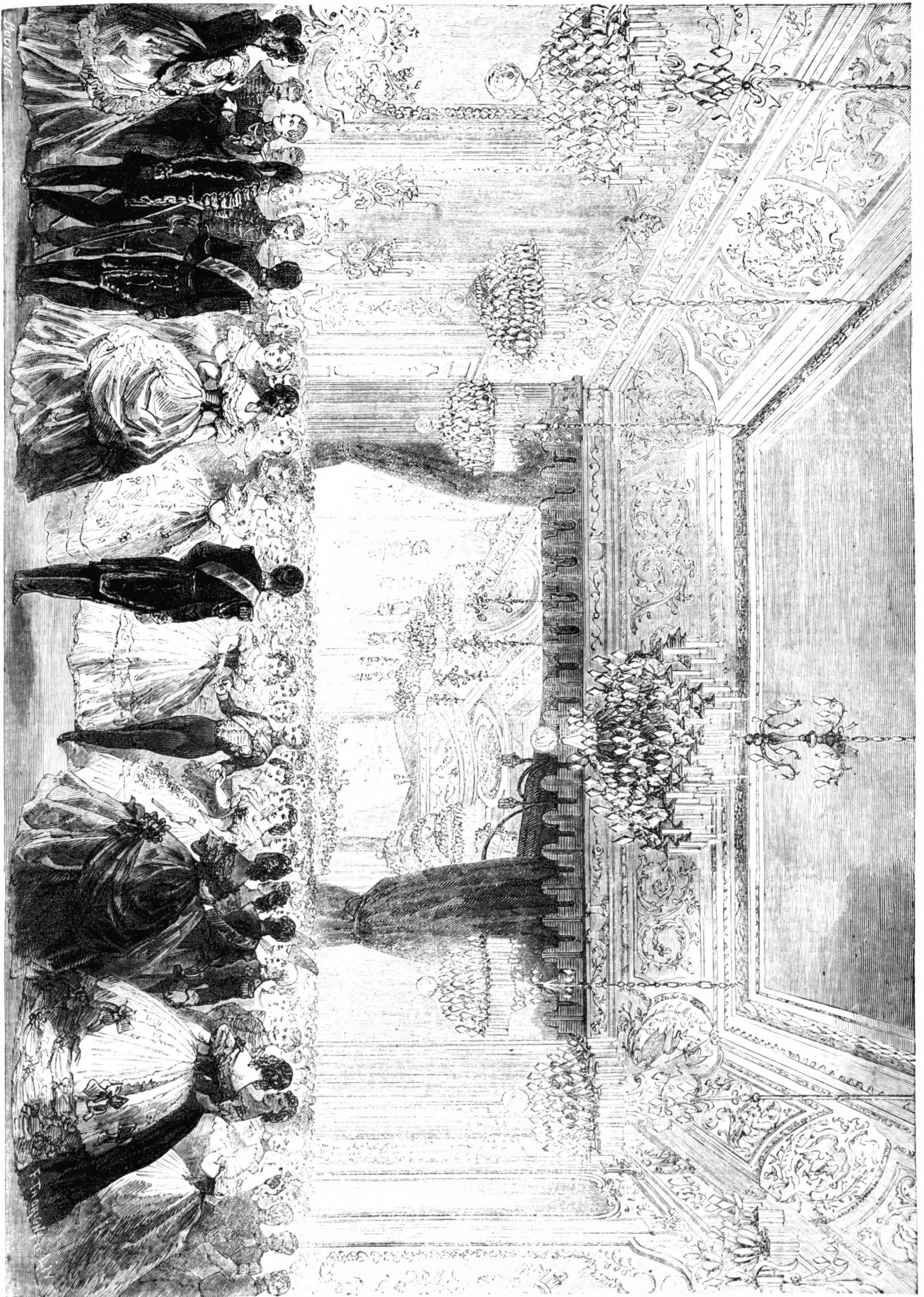
This strong position is still in the hands of the insurgents, who have beaten the Royalist troops in several sorties, and are said to be well provided with arms and provisions, deriving their supplies from Syra, while their opponents are alleged to be sadly deficient in both these important requisites. The Greek Government has given notice that a part of the coast in the vicinity of the Gulf of Nauplia is laid under blockade, but it is generally thought that the six small vessels at the command of the authorities are insufficient to keep the blockade on a line of coast 300 marine miles in extent, and that the measure will have very little effect in preventing the conveyance of supplies to the insurgents. The conduct of the latter has hitherto been most exemplary. No act of violence has been perpetrated, and everything leads to the idea that concessions of a very ample nature must be made before there can be any prospect of a termination of the insurrection. Notwithstanding the repeated declarations by the Government that the insurrection was of an insignificant character,

LORD LYONS, BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BRADY, OF NEW YORK.)



THE CITADEL OF NAUPLIA.





GRAND BALL AT PARIS GIVEN BY MARSHAL RANON, MINISTER OF WAR.



about to be put down, the King and his advisers at Athens are in a state of considerable alarm, and M. Mavrocordato has been applied to with the hope that a Ministry under his guidance may inspire some confidence and lead the insurgents to accept terms. The unpopularity of the Queen and her camarilla is the great obstacle to an accommodation; and the fear also exists that promises made under the pressure of the moment will eventually be broken, as they have hitherto been. The task of pacification, if M. Mavrocordato undertakes it, will be one of the utmost difficulty.

The following letter from Athens, dated the 6th instant, gives some details of the state of affairs at Nauplia, as well as of the influences and feelings which have produced the revolt:—

Nauplia holds out well, and up to this time has defended herself most advantageously. The insurgents have made redoubts at three kilometres distance from the place, and the opinion is that these redoubts cannot be taken without much bloodshed. The Royal troops have already met with considerable losses. The nation is indignant at the expressed determination of the King to punish this garrison, at all hazards, for having broken their oaths. "Why," say the Greeks, "if the Nauplia troops have broken their oaths, has not the King been false to his for the last eighteen years, during which period he has never ceased to violate the Hellenic Charter, which he swore to observe?"

Public opinion in the country is undoubtedly favourable to the insurrection, in spite of what may be said in the letters which the Government takes care to send to the Continent by every packet. Either yesterday or to-day an attempt was to be made to carry the redoubts above alluded to. If the Royal troops should be once more repulsed, I am afraid that the two little armies will coalesce and march to Athens to dictate to the Sovereign those conditions which the whole nation demands, in order that the system of Government may be changed, and the Hellenic Charter obeyed. Many intelligent people think that this will be the dénouement of the crisis.

In every family, in every class, men, women, and children unanimously condemn the King, and more especially the Queen. Whatever may happen, they are blamed for continuing a fratricidal war. Even assuming that the King should get the better of the insurrection, it cannot be forgotten that at least 500 lives have been already lost, and the Greek nation will think this too high a price to pay for the obsequies of its rulers. In my opinion, the affair of Nauplia, whatever may be the immediate result of it, will be disastrous for the dynasty. Business is paralysed, and many tradesmen in Athens have been thrown into prison simply for having closed their shops. A Greek said to me to-day, "There has been nothing like this since the time of the cholera." The people do not leave their houses, because the police arrest men in the streets on the slightest suspicion. The prisons are overflowing. The police recruits the sum of the city and pays them well. The Bank groans under these expenses, and its collectors come home empty. The courts of law dare not give judgment against those who refuse to pay. The situation is terrible.

## INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 177.

MR. WHALLEY.

We must introduce our readers to Mr. George Hammond Whalley, the member for Peterborough, and the self-constituted apostle of Protestantism, vice Mr. Spooner, resigned. There he sits—Mr. Whalley, we mean—on the cross benches below the bar. That short man with bushy hair and sparkling, beadlike eyes. No! he is gone. He was there but a minute ago, but he has fled. This is like Mr. Whalley, for he is as restless as the Wandering Jew, and has no certain dwelling-place in the House or out of it for a quarter of an hour together. Where has he got to? Surely he must be in the House, for he has a question to ask touching Maynooth upon the paper. Oh! there he is, perched behind the Government. But he will not be there long. Even now he seems to be on the move again. Yes, you see he has shot out of the side door. In a few minutes he will probably be in again, probably seated on the cross benches, or perhaps standing below the gangway for a second or two, and then he will turn on his heel and once more scud away like a swallow hunting flies. We have heard men of business say that hunting down Mr. Whalley is worse than hunting a hare with harriers, and that sometimes they have spent a whole day in running him to earth. In short, Mr. Whalley is the very spirit of unrest.

A MAN OF ONE IDEA.

In politics Mr. Whalley is a man with one idea, which occupies the whole field of his mental vision and colours every object that he sees. This idea is—that Popery has increased, is increasing, and ought to be stopped. And Mr. Whalley has come to the conclusion that he is divinely appointed—that it is his special mission—to accomplish this great work of arresting the advance of Popery. But Mr. Whalley is too late. Ten years ago anti-Poperyism, showing itself principally in opposition to the Maynooth Grant, was a living thing. At that time, whenever Mr. Spooner brought forward his motion against Maynooth, the lobby was filled by palefaced gentlemen in white neckcloths, and straight black coats, come to cheer on their members to the fight, and generally to watch with anxiety the combat. Members were seen rushing frantically into the House loaded with petitions, and in half an hour afterwards messengers came out of it with huge, plethoric bags, stuffed with these important documents; and the House was crowded, and when the division-bell rang there was no small anxiety to know the result of the struggle. Down in the country, too, this question was agitated with great zeal. It was the strong hold of the Conservative candidates. It was the *bite noir* of the Liberal. Clergymen preached about it; retired captains, piously inclined, catechised the candidates thereon upon the hustings, and many a man lost his seat because he was not sound upon this point. But now the thing is as dead as last year's mutton. Liberals laugh at what once so scared them; Conservatives seem to be ashamed of it. Mr. Newdegate's zeal has evidently grown cold; whilst even Spooner has declined to lead the forlorn hope any longer. Mr. Spooner's plea is age and increasing infirmities; but we venture to think that there are other reasons. He has come to see that what he has so long attempted is impossible; and, perhaps, even that it is not desirable. But, however this may be, the thing is dead, and that Mr. Whalley should take it up now is a very strange thing. Why should he do it? No fame nor success can come of such a venture; nothing but waste of time, ridicule, vexation, and disappointment. And then Mr. Whalley is a Liberal, and what sympathy can he have with the men with whom he is now associated? Why should Mr. Whalley join himself to these? An English Radical leading on bigoted Irish Orangemen! The thing is an anomaly, a solecism—in short, incomprehensible: a case of monomania, of diseased imagination and distorted mental vision.

NORTH AND SOUTH.

On Friday week we had a small fight in the English House of Commons between the Southerners and the Northerners, and the victory was unquestionably on the side of the latter. Indeed, the defeat of the Southerners amounted to a complete rout. The representatives of the South were Mr. Gregory, the member for Galway, and Mr. Lindsay (these sit on the Liberal side of the House), Mr. Bentinck, Sir James Fergusson, and Lord Robert Cecil, who sit on the Conservative Benches. The champions of the North were Mr. W. E. Forster, the new member for Bradford, and Sir Roundell Palmer, her Majesty's Solicitor-General. In numbers, therefore, the South had the advantage; but in weight of metal the North were vastly superior to their foes. There was a good deal of excitement both inside and outside of the House to hear this long-expected war of words. For the first time this Session the galleries were all full; and for the first time there was something like a crowd in the lobby. A great many Americans were down, of course; but it is a curious fact that not a single Ambassador was present. Some few Secretaries of Legation and Attachés were in the gallery set apart for the diplomatic corps, but no Ambassador nor Charge d'Affaires. Nor did the Peers come in great strength—neither Derby, nor Russell, nor Granville made their appearance.

MR. MASON.

But there was one man in close proximity with the Peers that were present who was the observed of all observers; and that was the notable Mr. Mason, the Southern Commissioner—the gentleman

who was forcibly taken from the Trent. He took the seat under the gallery early in the evening, and, dinner hour excepted, sat out the debate until it closed. He was introduced, as before, by his friends Mr. Gregory and Mr. Lindsay. Mr. Mason, we should judge by his appearance, is about fifty years old. In height he is some five feet eight inches. He is broad-shouldered, squarely built; his head is large; his forehead is broad, high, and massive; and his features are strongly marked, but not harsh. His eyes are somewhat prominent, and of a cold, dull, grey colour. He wears his hair long, but his face is perfectly smooth. It is exceedingly difficult to judge of character from a cursory view of a countenance; but we should not be surprised to learn that Mr. Mason is a man of great abilities, strong of will, and persevering in action. But, though there is nothing revolting nor harsh in his features, he gives us the idea that he could be resolute and tyrannical; and we are rather disposed to sympathise with the Irishman in the lobby who, when the Commissioner was pointed out, exclaimed, "Is that Mason? He is not a bad-looking fellow; but, by George, there is determination in that face, and I would sooner be his nutmeg than his nigger."

MR. GREGORY OPENS FIRE.

The object of the leaders in the debate was to prove to the Government that the blockade is imperfect—in fact, only a paper blockade—and ought to be broken. In short, it was an attempt to force the English Government into a war with the Federal States, for to this result breaking the blockade would, of course, inevitably lead. Mr. Gregory brought the question before the House by a formal motion for papers. From the first, however, it was known that the Government would refuse the papers, and there was no intention to press the motion to a division. Discussion was all that was wanted for the occasion, not action, for the present. Mr. Gregory and his friends were anxious to feel the pulse of the English Parliament, or, as we should rather say, to ascertain which way the wind blew, whether south or north. Mr. Gregory arose about five o'clock, and he made a long speech. The oratory of the honourable member for Galway is of the wide-spreading, flowing sort; and, like all oratory of this sort, is not very effective. The speech was carefully prepared—the facts in it were well arranged—the language was good—the action, on the whole, appropriate, though exception might be taken to the habit which Mr. Gregory has of throwing his right arm too far back, beyond the line of his body, which is not elegant, and is contrary to the rules laid down by all elocutionists. Mr. Gregory is also faulty in the management of his voice, for, anxious to avoid monotony of tone, and to make his speech impressive, he occasionally drops it so low that the ends of his sentences are lost to his hearers. But, on the whole, Mr. Gregory's speech was for the time successful. He apparently made a strong case, and was rewarded with bursts of cheers from the sympathisers with the South. His speech, however, would have been much more effective if it had been more compact and direct; or, as one gentleman said, he would have hit harder if he had not wasted so much of his strength in flourishing his weapon. It is worth noting before we leave Mr. Gregory that the cheers came mainly from the Conservatives. On the Government side the members made no sign, except Mr. Lindsay, whose emphatic "Hear hear!" was very audible. The hon. member for Sunderland sat out of his usual place on this occasion. He had placed himself within two or three seats of Mr. Gregory, as if he wished ostentatiously to show that he was the appointed backer of the member for Galway.

MR. BENTINCK.

The seconder of Mr. Gregory's motion was Mr. Bentinck; but when he rose the dinner hour had come, and it requires a much more potent wand than the burly member for West Norfolk wields to retain members in their seats when that interesting time arrives. As soon, therefore, as Mr. Bentinck's awful form was seen to lift itself above the mass, the majority of the members incontinently rose and dispersed. To strangers, not accustomed to the ways of the House, thus to rise en masse and leave a member to speak to empty benches appears very rude, and even unkind; but it is the custom, is well understood, and gives no offence. Indeed, no man—not your closest friend—nor even your brother, is expected to stop when the dinner hour arrives. It is understood that no disrespect is meant, and that no offence is to be taken. Of Mr. Bentinck's speech we say nothing, except that it was dull, heavy, and inconsequential.

A magnificent specimen, on the whole, Of that figure of speech called rigmarole,

and rigmarole of the dullest and most ponderous character. Witness that joke of his that the stars on the American flag ought to have their points chipped off, and thus be turned into dollars; and that remarkable definition of a republic, to wit—"If Republicanism meant anything it meant that every individual in the republic had the right to set himself free if he wished."

MR. FORSTER DISMOUNTS THE ENEMY'S GUNS.

Mr. W. E. Forster rose before the members had returned from the dinner-table, which was a pity, for a more crushing reply than that which the member for Bradford made was never delivered in the House. Solomon pithily says, "He that is first in his own cause seemeth just, but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him out." And this was wonderfully exemplified on this occasion. The strong point of Mr. Gregory's speech was its facts; his oratorical appeals, of course, went for nothing; but, if his facts were correct, a case had certainly been made out. And for a time, so long as Mr. Gregory's long array of facts remained untouched, there did seem a strong *prima facie* reason for believing that the blockade was not sufficiently effective; and under this impression probably many of the members went to dinner. Indeed, as they passed out, this was the tone of the conversation of many—"Well, Gregory has made out a case, I think; a very strong case." But to our mind there hung a cloud of suspicion from the first over Mr. Gregory's facts, for it was observable that none of them were based upon unquestionable authority; they were statements from private letters—mere hearsay facts, in short—what Brown had told Robinson, and Robinson had sent to Jones; and we felt it to be quite possible that when they came to be "searched" they would be found to be myths, not facts—mere exaggerations—"eleven buckram men grown out of two," or as mythical as the Mrs. Harris of Mrs. Gamp. And so it turned out. Mr. Forster is a new man in the House of Commons. He came in last year, when Mr. Titus Salt, tired of his Parliamentary honours, resigned his seat. But Mr. Forster was not unknown to fame before he arrived. He is not an orator; no man expected to find him one; but he is a man of extensive knowledge—one of those rare men who know how to observe, and can tell a fact when they see it at a glance; a steady, patient investigator. Mr. Forster has spoken many times since he has been in the House; but it was not till that Friday night that he had an opportunity of showing his power. The clever manner in which he took up Gregory's bag of facts and examined them one by one—ringing them, as we should say, to ascertain their value, as a money-changer rings questionable coins—until at length he had emptied the bag, was something new and surprising in the House; and when, to continue our figure, he quietly shook the bag to show that it was empty, the House was disposed to laugh rather than cheer. When the members went to dinner six hundred ships had broken the blockade; when they returned, six hundred were reduced to sixteen. Such was the result of Mr. Forster's able, clever, searching analysis of Mr. Gregory's facts. It was amusing to note the Treasury bench whilst Mr. Forster was going through his analytical work. Palmerston lifted his head from his breast where during the dinner hour it usually rests, and fixed his eyes full upon Mr. Forster. Gladstone's expressive face was irradiated with pleasure; and even the solemn countenance of Sir Roundell Palmer, over which there never by chance passes a smile, showed that he was listening with intense interest. Our opinion is that the Government

themselves were not aware of the strength of their case until Mr. Forster spoke.

SIR R. PALMER—THE LAST CHARGE.

Of Sir Roundell Palmer's remarkable oration we can, for want of space, say but little. Mr. Forster dealt with the facts of the case, and the Solicitor-General with the law. But there was something better than dry law in his magnificent speech. Running on with the legal argument there was a fine undertone of healthy sentiment and feeling. It were to be wished, however, that the accomplished and eloquent speaker could free himself from his lugubrious look and pulpit-tone of voice which characterise him. But it is too late. He is too old now to change. We must take him, therefore, as he is, and be thankful. Sir Roundell Palmer came into the House last year when Sir Richard Bethell went to the Lords. He was not, however, new to us, for he had been a member of Parliament before.

THE END.

After Sir Roundell Palmer's speech it was felt that the fight was over. Lord Robert Cecil attempted to cover the retreat with a dropping shot or two, but nobody heeded him. Indeed, Lord Robert, who came into the House heralded by such a flourish of trumpets as the "coming man," has now sunk so low that he can hardly, at any time, retain the ear of the House. In short, he is a failure. There never was a chance of his becoming a power in the House. He might, however, have held a respectable position but for his petulance. By this he has roused the resentment of his political foes and alienated his friends. Boldness the House likes, but petulance will never do there. Whilst Lord Robert spoke there was a buzz of conversation, and when he sat down Mr. Speaker put the question, and all was over. Stansfeld meant, and Bright was expected, to speak; but what would have been the use? Slaying the slain is useless work.

## Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MARCH 7.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE REVISED EDUCATION CODE.

Lord LITTLTON, in proposing a series of resolutions relating to the revised code of education, admitted that the Government was obliged to take some steps in consequence of the recommendations of the Royal Commissioners, and that many of the alterations deserved approval. There were others, however, which he condemned, and he argued that the certified teachers had a claim to their full salaries; that the mode in which the principle of regulating allowances to schools according to their greater or less success was badly carried out; that the capitation grants given upon the ground of proficiency in reading, writing, and arithmetic were not satisfactory; and that public aid ought not to be refused to schools where something beyond elementary instruction was given.

Earl GRANVILLE complimented the noble Lord on the practical character of his speech, and thanked him for the favourable opinion, so far as it had gone, which he had pronounced upon the revised code. But the resolutions which he had moved were not consistent with each other; and the Royal Commissioners, after having carefully inquired into the subject, had declared that certified teachers did not possess an equitable claim for compensation.

After some remarks from Lord Belper, Lord Lyttelton withdrew his resolutions.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE LONGFORD ELECTION.

In answer to a question from Mr. Lefroy, Sir R. PAEL said that the subject of the recent rioting in the county of Longford had been brought under the consideration of the Government, who believed that the newspaper reports had rather under-estimated than exaggerated the outrages which had been committed. The right hon. Baronet added that, as the proceedings appeared to have been merely the mockery of an election, he presumed that the subject would be referred to a Committee of the House.

Mr. HANNESSY complained that the right hon. Baronet was out of order in prejudging that which was to become the subject of investigation by Parliament.

The SPEAKER was of opinion that Sir R. Pael was not out of order, but intimated that exception might perhaps be taken to his discretion.

THE AMERICAN BLOCKADE.

On the question of going into Committee of Supply, Mr. GREGORY called the attention of the House to the blockade of the ports of the Confederate States of America, and moved an address for copies of any correspondence on the subject subsequent to the papers already presented to the House. The hon. gentleman, having expressed his regret at the deplorable fratricidal contest now raging in the States of America, admitted that his sympathies were not with those who were fighting for empire, but with those who were struggling for independence. The efficiency or inefficiency of the blockade of the Southern ports was a question which affected more or less every country in the civilised world—England more than any other. If the blockade were inefficient, what became of our boasted impartiality and neutrality? If we respected that which, according to the received law of nations, was not a bona fide blockade, we were doing injustice to the fair trader by making commerce a matter of smuggling and gambling. We were also dealing unjustly with our own industrious classes by depriving them of the raw material by the manufacture of which they existed. He did not intend to attack her Majesty's Government, because they had hitherto played a difficult part with great discretion and forbearance, but he warned them how they lent their sanction to a deliberate departure from international law. Having referred to the opinions of several eminent jurists, including De Hauteville, Kent, and others, as to the interpretation to be put upon the law of blockade, Mr. Gregory referred to the reports of our own Commanders and Consuls, and also to the statements made in the American newspapers, to show that the blockade of the Southern ports was merely a form, and that hundreds of vessels, including steamers of large tonnage, had entered and quitted the ports of Charleston and Wilmington without any attempt at molestation by Federal ships-of-war. Mr. Seward himself had admitted the inefficiency of the blockade, but had defended it on the *sic volo sic dubio* principle, by putting his foot through international law just as it happened to suit his convenience. Mr. Gregory then proceeded to state that, up to the 1st of November, upwards of four hundred vessels had run the blockade, and since then it had continued as constantly. He read a number of documents to show its general entire inefficiency, while intermissions of that which was affected to be kept up were frequent. Referring to the sinking of the stone fleet, the hon. gentleman denounced the act as a disgraceful exercise of despotic power, and called upon the House to give no countenance to it. He recommended that we should act with strict justice towards the Federal States, but with nothing more, because we owed that Government but scant courtesy. The attitude of England ought, he thought, to be a beacon to the whole world. If, in order to conciliate the United States, we were to depart from the great principle of international law, we would be enacting the part of wreckers and holding out false lights to lure people to destruction. If her Majesty's Government were not prepared to justify their conduct, then all he could say was that the declaration of Paris was a mockery as regarded any interpretation of international law, a delusion as regarded the trade and commerce of the world, and nothing better than a snare.

Mr. BENTINCK seconded the motion. He observed that it was mere hypocrisy to contend that slavery had anything to do with the war. The question was one of money, and money only. The North was fighting to impose taxes, and the South to oppose them. This being the issue, he asked upon what grounds Earl Russell declared, in the case of Italy, that the Italians were the best judges of the description of government most acceptable to them, while he declined to admit the application of the same principle to the Southern States of America?

Mr. W. E. FORSTER took an opposite view of the question, and analysed the various returns of ships which had broken the blockade, in order to show that the number of actual captures after the declaration was greatly exaggerated. The fact that Mosca, Mason and Siddell were for three or four weeks in the Nashville trying to escape to sea was in itself a proof that the blockade was sufficient for the purpose. He hoped the Government would continue to adhere to a strict policy of neutrality, and that no pressure in the manufacturing districts would tempt them to depart from that course. Sir J. FENWICK contended that the blockade was inefficient, and quoted documents in support of his position.

Mr. M. MILNES deprecated the discussion of a question which involved nothing more nor less than peace or war with the United States. The blockade must be effective for this reason, that the population was completely cut off from the civilised world, while many of the necessities of life were at fabulous prices.

Mr. W. S. LINDSAY supported the motion, and advocated the constitutional right of the Southern States to secede.

The SOLICITOR-GENERAL observed that the inconvenience of raising such a debate on a motion for the production of papers was, that it tended to introduce every contentious topic which could wound the susceptibilities of



one party or the other in this unhappy contest. There was, he said, but one principle upon which the blockade was to be judged, and that was the principle of international law. Great Britain had done nothing that was inconsistent with her former practice, M. de Hauteville notwithstanding. The elements of a bona fide blockade were a sufficient force to keep it up and due notification of its existence; but there was no accurate definition laid down of what was a sufficient force, which might depend on many circumstances, and in fact was much in the discretion of the naval officer in command of the blockading squadron. Even if a blockade was interrupted, was it resumed it was as binding as before, and it was only during the actual time of interruption that any advantage could be taken. A blockade of a particular port would be good if it was sufficient for that point, although the general blockade of a line of coast might not be perfect. These were questions for prize courts, and not matters for consideration of two Governments. If at the beginning of hostilities the American Government had proposed to establish a paper blockade, or any indication of a violation of the law of nations, it would have been the duty of our Government to have protested against and resisted it; but the proclamation of the blockade was in conformity with international law; and it was not to be assumed that the blockade was not effectual; while the result of the reports of our naval officers was such that it became a question of time, and place, and degree, and it had been shown that there were only sixteen actual cases of running the blockade. It might be for the interest of her foreign rivals that England, like Samson, confident in her security, should give up the secret of her strength and let her locks be shorn; but, if she adopted new-fangled notions respecting the question of blockade, she might find it impossible in any future war to institute an effective blockade, and see her maritime supremacy destroyed. He contended that an armed neutrality would be nothing less than war, and he recommended that we should be consistently just and strictly impartial in our relations with those who were sprung from the same origin as ourselves. We should be generous and just, and do to others as we would have others do to us.

The motion was supported by Lord R. Cecil, who replied to what he termed the "splendid legal subtleties" of the Solicitor-General. The noble Lord charged the Government with exhibiting a partiality towards the United States, and argued that, if there were not a bias, they would not have departed from the principle they had acted upon in recognising the kingdoms of Belgium and Italy.

After a few words from Admiral WILCOTT, the motion was negatived without a division.

## THE SUMTER.

In answer to Mr. Griffith, Mr. LAYARD said that he was unable to give any additional information as to the arrest of an officer of the Sumter at Tangiers.

## MONDAY, MARCH 10.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## THE AMERICAN BLOCKADE.

Lord STRATHKEDEN called attention to the blockade of the ports of the Confederate States of America, and moved for any correspondence on the matter submitted to the papers already presented to the House.

Lord ABERCROMBIE thought that in the interests of humanity her Majesty's Government would do well to interfere and recognise the independence of the Southern States.

Earl RUSSELL remarked that the United States' Government had an unquestionable right to establish a blockade, and that the means of carrying it out, though necessarily deficient at first, had been increased until it could now be fairly considered effective. Doubtless there had been irregularities in the American blockade; but these were really inseparable from the nature of the operations. Had the blockade been ineffective, it was competent for the owners of any of the captured vessels to plead the fact against the legality of the capture; but the number of vessels that had run the blockade had been greatly exaggerated. The Government of France was in full accord with that of England on the subject, being of opinion that the blockade, however inconvenient, was perfectly legal. He pledged himself, however, to watch events with the most careful anxiety and with strict impartiality to all parties. He trusted that in the course of the next three months, if not sooner, they would see the end of this deplorable civil war, and that the North would consent to the separation of the South; and it was a matter of gratification to him that England had done nothing to aggravate the bitterness of the contest.

The motion was then withdrawn.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## STATE OF AFFAIRS IN NAPLES.

In reply to a question from Mr. Disraeli, Lord PALMERSTON said that he had made inquiry at the Foreign Office and that no communication had been received, either from her Majesty's representative at Turin or from the British Consul at Naples, with reference to another proclamation issued by the military commandant of the district of Further Calabria threatening the unoffending inhabitants with atrocious punishments. The noble Lord added that he was sure it was needless for him to say that her Majesty's Government participated in the disgust which was generally felt at such proceedings. It was true that the brigands who inhabited that portion of the Neapolitan territory had committed outrages of a revolting character, but that was no justification for retaliating upon the innocent the misdeeds of the guilty. Her Majesty's Government had telegraphed to Sir James Hudson at Turin, and he (Lord Palmerston) hoped that Sir James would be able to assure them that the proclamation in question had not only been withdrawn but also disavowed and censured by the Government of the King of Italy.

## SANDHURST COLLEGE.

Sir G. C. LEWIS, in reply to a question from Sir Henry Willoughby, stated that it was his intention on Thursday next to move the recommitment of the vote for the enlargement of Sandhurst College, struck out of the Estimates on Friday night, in order that the House might have an opportunity of reconsidering its decision on the matter.

Mr. SELWYN (upon whose motion the item in question had been eliminated from the Estimates) protested against this course as disingenuous, inasmuch as it now appeared that a portion of the money asked for and refused on Friday had already been expended.

A short discussion ensued, and ultimately the question that the vote be postponed was agreed to; but on a subsequent motion that it be taken into consideration on Thursday next the House divided, and the motion was agreed to by 113 to 105.

## STEAM NAVAL TACTICS.—WARRANT OFFICERS.

Admiral WILCOTT asked whether it was the intention of the Admiralty, in the course of the forthcoming summer, to form a squadron for the purpose of instructing officers in naval tactics under steam?

Sir J. HAY asked if it was intended to reduce the number of warrant officers of the Navy, and also to make a considerable reduction in the complements of seagoing ships, and if so, on what principle that reduction would be regulated? He denied that the alteration in the armament justified a reduction in the number of men.

Lord C. PAGET said that with regard to steam tactics of late years the Admirals in command of the different squadrons had been directed to carry out a system of instruction which was already established. There would soon be a squadron in the Channel, and steam tactics would not be neglected. The only vessels from which the warrant officers alluded to were to be taken away were four, carrying under 125 men. The reduction of the complements of seagoing ships had reference to sanitary measures in the first instance; but the proceeding was at present only an experiment, and if it did not succeed the number could be restored.

## MEXICO.

Mr. HALIBURTON called attention to our relations with Mexico, and inquired whether information had reached the Government that Mexican agents had been commissioned to fit out in America privateers to operate against the commerce of this country; and whether measures had been taken either in anticipation or in consequence thereof? He criticised the new system which had been introduced of this country always taking the assistance of France in the redress of our grievances, and especially objected to the introduction of Spain into the present proceedings against Mexico. He wished to know whether the state of things in Mexico was peace or war?

Mr. LAYARD stated that, owing to the coming into power of a certain party in Mexico, outrages were committed on English and French subjects, two Consuls were shot, and many residents plundered, and no redress had been obtained from any Government. Spain also had received many injuries in the persons of her subjects equally without redress, and simultaneously with France and this country, had taken steps to obtain redress. On the whole, the Government had nothing to complain of in the conduct of the Spaniards, except, perhaps, part of a proclamation which referred to the establishment of a new state of things in Mexico, which was no part of the object of the English movement in the matter, it being solely to obtain satisfaction for injuries inflicted. We were not at war with Mexico, for the last advice stated that there was a disposition to accede to our just demands. He had no information that American privateers, with Mexican letters of marque, were in Mexican waters; but the Admiral on the station had been warned that it was reported that something of the kind was contemplated.

## SUPPLY.—THE ARMY ESTIMATES.

The House then went into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates, when the remaining votes, except that referring to Sandhurst, were agreed to without discussion.

Lord HILTON commented upon the marvellous rapidity with which the Army Estimates were now disposed of, and hoped the remaining Estimates would be directed as soon as possible, so that hon. members might be free to attend to more agreeable occupations elsewhere.

On the motion of Mr. M. GIBSON, leave was given to bring in a bill to amend the General Piracy and Harbour Act (1861).

Mr. DUNLOP obtained leave to bring in a bill to explain and extend a certain exemption from toll on turnpike roads in Scotland.

On the motion of Mr. KINSAID (for Mr. Mure) a bill was brought in to amend the Acts for the regulation of public-houses in Scotland.

The Lord Advocate also obtained leave to bring in a bill to facilitate the transfer of movable property in Scotland.

## TUESDAY, MARCH 11.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

## LUNACY REGULATION BILL.

On the second reading of the Lunacy Regulation Bill a discussion, originated by Lord Chelmsford, took place, in which the details of the measure were criticised by the Earl of Derby, Lord Cranworth, and Lord St. Leonards, and defended by the Lord Chancellor and the Earl of Shaftesbury; after which the bill was read a second time, and the House adjourned.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## THE DEFENCE OF SHANGHAI.

In answer to Colonel Sykes, Mr. LAYARD said that, looking to the amount of British property in Shanghai, the Government had given directions to protect that city against the Taipings by naval means.

## PUBLIC MONIES.

Lord R. MONTAGU moved a resolution, the object of which was to strengthen the check upon the Government in regard to issues of money for any public service in excess of the sums voted by Parliament, and to secure the just appropriation of every payment voted to its proper account. The noble Lord submitted that, according to the existing practice, Parliament was deprived of its control over the issue and appropriation of the public money, which was monopolised by the Minister of the day through the system of "balances in the Exchequer," the transfers of appropriation, and votes of credit. To remedy this evil he proposed that the Committee of Selection should annually nominate a Committee for the purpose of revising all estimates or accounts laid before Parliament, the Committee to report in what way the present duties and powers of the Board of Audit should be extended or changed, with a view to render such board responsible to Parliament alone, and the present system of audit available for the purposes of the public service; also to report upon the exact period of the financial year when it would be desirable that the annual estimates should be presented to Parliament, so as to enable the necessary examination of such estimates or accounts to be completed and reported upon by such Committee before the House proceeded to sanction such estimates or accounts by a vote in Supply.

Sir F. BARING said the arguments of the noble Lord were not conclusive as to his remedy, which in his (Sir F. Baring's) opinion would rather aggravate than mitigate the evil. The noble Lord appeared to forget that the Committee on Public Monies had taken up all the points to which he had called attention, and had recommended certain remedies. Why had not the noble Lord moved that the recommendations of the Committee be carried into effect?

Sir G. BOWEN supported the motion, and commented upon the inefficiency of the Board of Audit as at present conducted.

The motion was opposed by Mr. F. PERKINS, who contended that some of the suggestions of the noble Lord had already been anticipated, while the effect of adopting others would be to transfer to an irresponsible body the functions which properly belonged to the House of Commons and the Government.

Mr. WHITE expressed himself dissatisfied with the resolution, but concluded by stating his intention to vote for it.

Mr. NEWDEGATE supported the motion, which was opposed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Sir S. NORTHGOTE recommended that the motion should be withdrawn. After some observations from Mr. Williams, Lord R. MONTAGU replied, and on a division the motion was negatived by 96 to 31.

## INTERNATIONAL MARITIME LAW.

Mr. HORSTALL next moved "That the present state of international maritime law, as affecting the rights of belligerents and neutrals, is ill-defined and unsatisfactory, and calls for the early attention of her Majesty's Government." The hon. gentleman, having stated that the majority of his constituents approved of strict neutrality being observed in reference to the civil war in America, and that his own opinion was in favour of preserving the blockade of the Southern ports, quoted evidence taken before the Select Committee on Merchant Shipping last Session to show the disadvantage under which British shipowners laboured in consequence of the present unsatisfactory state of international maritime law. He contended that private property should no longer be exposed to aggression at either side; and argued that in case of war the fleets of the belligerents should be employed in legitimate warlike operations, rather than in capturing and destroying the property of individuals, or acting as convoys to merchant-vessels. Objection had been taken that America had not agreed to the declaration of Paris, but it was well known that America wished to have ships and cargo put upon the same footing, and that that principle were recognised she would consent to give up privateering. Mr. Horstall also quoted from a speech made by Lord Palmerston at Liverpool, in the course of which the noble Lord expressed the gratification it would afford him to see the maritime law well defined, and so regarded by the nations of Europe that the property of private individuals, not being contraband of war, should be respected under whatever flag it was carried.

The motion was seconded by Mr. COBBEN.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in the statement of the law as it now exists as laid down by Mr. Horstall, and it was so clear and well understood that the assertion that it was ill-defined was not well founded. There was no doubt that it gave an advantage to neutral ships in time of war over belligerents, although that advantage might be balanced by the naval power of any belligerent. As to any further extension of the principles of maritime law, they could only be adopted with the consent of all nations.

Mr. LIDDELL supported the motion, which Mr. B. COCHRANE opposed.

Sir G. BOWEN said that in a country conquered by operations on land, according to international law, private property was not forfeited; and he could not see why the principle of non-violation of private property should not prevail at sea, and gave his assent to the motion.

Sir G. C. LEWIS complained of the vague and general manner in which the resolution was worded. It involved the question of privateering, a neutral flag carrying enemy's goods, and the sanctity of private ships and property at sea. The course which the hon. gentleman had taken was, to say the least of it, an inconvenient one; for the better course would have been to have moved an address to the Crown praying her Majesty to use her influence with foreign Powers for the purpose of making the principle that the enemy's flag should cover the enemy's ships and goods a maxim of international law.

Mr. T. BARRING was not disposed to discuss either the necessity for, or the merits of, the declaration of Paris; but, as we had adopted it as law, the question for consideration was in what manner it operated upon the mercantile marine of the country. He agreed with the resolution, and he believed, if it were carried, it would materially strengthen the hands of the Government in obtaining a more satisfactory understanding with foreign Powers. He believed that sooner or later the great principle for which the hon. member for Liverpool had contended would prevail, although the present Administration might oppose it.

Lord PALMERSTON said his own opinion, and that which he hoped would be the opinion of the House, was, that the principle which the hon. member for Liverpool recommended would level a fatal blow at the naval power of the country, and would be an act of political suicide.

On the motion of Mr. COBBEN, the debate was adjourned to Monday next.

## THE ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION.

On the motion of Mr. H. SKYNNOR, a Select Committee was appointed to inquire into the present state of the Ecclesiastical Commission, and to report to the House whether the ecclesiastical revenues cannot be more advantageously administered for the interests of the Church than they are at present.

## WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## MARRIAGES OF AFFINITY BILL.

On the motion for going into Committee on the Marriages of Affinity Bill, Mr. HUNT moved its rejection, urging that he was justified in doing so, looking to the small majority by which the second reading was carried.

Mr. BAILL contended that scripture not only permitted but suggested and recommended marriage with a deceased wife's sister.

Mr. MONCKELL stated that in Ireland there was the strongest and most intense feeling against this bill. He strongly argued against and opposed it generally, but said that, in any case, he should do his best to have Ireland excluded from its operation.

Sir W. JOLIFFE and Mr. GREGSON supported the bill.

On a division the amendment was carried by 118 to 116. The bill was therefore thrown out.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Marriages (Ireland) Bill was read a second time.

The Consolidated Fund (£18,000,000) Bill was read a second time.

## NEW BILLS.

Sir J. COLE obtained leave to bring in a bill to provide for the exemption of hours of small annual value from the payment of poor's assessment in Scotland.

Mr. HADFIELD obtained leave to bring in a bill to amend the law as to the whipping of juvenile and other offenders.

Mr. BOUVERIE moved for and obtained leave to bring in a bill for the Relief of Persons in Holy Orders of the United Church of England and Ireland declaring their dissent therefrom; the object of which is to prevent clergymen who have left the Established Church from being subject to legal proceedings should they adopt any other calling.

## THURSDAY, MARCH 13.

## HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships met for a short time. No business of any general importance was transacted.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

## NEW MEMBER.

Major O'Reilly took the oath and his seat for Longford. The hon. gentleman was introduced by The O'Connor Don and Major Gavin.

After disposing of some questions of no great moment, the House went into Committee of Supply on the remaining votes in the Army Estimates.

## ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

CANTERBURY.—The contest in this borough has resulted in the return of Mr. Butler Johnstone, the Conservative candidate, and not in that of Major Lyon, as, by a mis-take in the telegram, we were led to believe last week. The numbers at the close of the poll were—Johnstone, 691; Lyon, 691: majority for Johnstone, 3.

NORTH RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.—The High Sheriff has fixed the nomination for Monday next, the 17th instant, and the poll will be taken on the following Thursday, and the declaration on Saturday. The contest now lies between Mr. Milbank and Mr. Morritt, Mr. Worsley having retired.

CHIPPING WYCOMBE.—The death of Sir G. H. Dashwood having caused a vacancy in this borough, two candidates are in the field. One, in the Conservative interest, is Donald Cameron, Esq., of Hampden House, Bucks, known as "Lochiel" of Achnakerry, in the Highlands of Scotland; the other, on the Liberal side, is Mr. J. Remington Mills, one of the candidates at the recent election for Finsbury.

EAST SOMERSET.—A movement is on foot in the eastern division of the county of Somerset to secure the election of Sir Arthur Hallam Elton, Bart., of Cleveland Court, at the next general election. Sir William Miles, Bart., one of the present members, having announced that it is not his intention to offer himself for re-election.

THE FIRM OF MESSRS. JOHN FOSTER AND SON, spinners and manufacturers, are about to erect, at their own expense, an appropriate and beautiful memorial of the late Prince. It is to be erected in the village of Queenshead, near to their extensive works.

SANITARY STATE OF WINDSOR CASTLE.—Mr. Rawlinson, who has been engaged by her Majesty to investigate the sanitary condition of Windsor Castle, has certified that he examined every nook and cranny of the castle, from the cellars to the roof, and that he is convinced there is not a more healthy habitation in England, or perhaps in any other country in the world, than the ancient and favoured palace of the English Sovereigns.

A VERY PRETTY QUARREL.—The Count de Tour, French Consul at Cyprus, met Mr. Mattei, the Prussian Consul, and his lady at a ball. Next day he encountered them in the street and saluted them. The lady returned the salute, but her husband did not. This enraged the Count, and, on being refused an explanation, he whipped the Prussian. The latter responded vigorously with a stick. In the evening two friends of the Count called on M. Mattei to demand satisfaction, but they were refused admittance. A written challenge was then sent, to which the Vice-Consul replied that he had "referred the matter to his superiors." The other members of the consular body have taken Count de Tour's part, and M. Mattei is consequently, for the present, in virtual Coventry.

THE POPE'S ALLOCATION.—The following is the allocation addressed by the Sovereign Pontiff to the Lent preachers:—"Each year we meet again on the same day, and each year we promise ourselves that the following one the griefs which afflict us shall be passed; we lull ourselves with sweet hopes, the realisation of which is long in arriving. Meantime the evil continues its ravages; the revolution does not cease to seduce and corrupt, to destroy and overthrow. Nevertheless, it must also be said, and I have already made you to understand it, God can cause good to come out of evil, and there is good in the misfortunes which we suffer. It is by trials that the elect appear, and it is by trials that the wicked are known. Times of revolution are like the barn in which God thrashes his wheat—the good seed remains, and the straw is separated to be trodden under foot and thrown to the flames. (The preceding year the Holy Father had compared revolution to the waves of the sea, the Church to a rock, and the wicked to the foam driven by the tempest.) Let us pray that the evil days may be shortened; but you especially who are called on to exercise an immense influence on the populations, preach, strengthen the good, bring back those who have been led away, and if possible the seducers themselves; these latter will come, perhaps, to catch you in your discourses. You must endeavour to catch them. There is a specious objection made to my government—that it extends over a small State, and that my subjects, in accepting a greater lord than myself, will have less to pay. That is a deplorable illusion, and is a matter on which, should the case arise, each should endeavour to enlighten those with whom he may have to do. As to the dreams of Italian unity, of the resurrection of a past empire, they are mere chimeras—impossibilities which can only deceive men out of their senses, and on which it is hardly allowed to pause."

A THIEFISH MARQUIS.—The Marquis Barabro di San Giorgio, well known in the highest English society in Malta, has just been tried at Valetta on a charge of stealing, from time to time, various articles from the Union Club, of which he was a member. The defence, which was intended to have been on the ground of "kleptomania," was afterwards changed to a denial of the alleged thefts. Late in the evening of the third day's proceedings the jury delivered their verdict, unanimously finding the accused guilty of five of the counts of the indictment, and, by a majority of six against three, acquitting him of the other two. The Judge condemned the prisoner to five years' imprisonment, with hard labour.

AUSTRIA AND FRANCE.—A letter from Vienna of the 5th inst. says:—"Eight or ten days ago the Cabinet of Vienna addressed to M. de Metternich at Paris a note intended to be communicated to M. Thouvenot. This document relates to the Roman question. It points out the view of Austria conformably with the stipulations of Zurich, and invites France, as a Catholic Power, to adopt towards the Pope a frank policy, and one which is in agreement with its former promises, so as to put an end to illusions which its attitude encourages in the two contending parties."

## THE DEATH OF GENERAL ZOLLICOFFER.

The circumstances attending the death of the Confederate leader Zollicoffer, in the battle of Mill Spring, or Somerset, as it is sometimes called, in Kentucky, on the 19th of Jan. last, will probably be still in the recollection of our readers. The battle in which General Zollicoffer lost his life is thus described in the letter of the *Times* special correspondent:—

The Confederate leader Zollicoffer, who was a printer originally, afterwards journalist, politician, and member of Congress, occupied a strong position on the Cumberland River, nearly covering Cumberland Gap, and holding the coal and mineral supplies of the district bordering on Tennessee. He seems to have been a heady, aggressive leader, for he was unfortunate in a previous attack on "Camp Wild Cat," and now he had moved out of his mountain passes to fall on the Federals under General Alvin Schoepf, who had remained with his corps of 6000 men in camp at Somerset, while his chief, General Thomas, with a force somewhat larger, was feeling his way around Zollicoffer's position for the purpose of shaking or reconnoitring it. Zollicoffer was repulsed and killed by Schoepf, and his troops fled back to their positions, not hotly pursued, however, as they were supposed by their enemy to be standing fast in their old fastnesses. Schoepf and Thomas, having combined their forces, attacked the camp the same evening (Jan. 19), but it was abandoned by the Confederates, who left guns, stores, and baggage behind them.

A letter written from the Federal camp immediately after the battle thus details the incidents connected with Zollicoffer's death:—

He fell nearer our camp than any other man of his army. He was with Battle's Regiment, his own home friends, born and brought up around him, at Nashville. A short distance from him, to his right, a party of his men had been broken from their comrades, and were herding together like frightened deer. Colonel Fry's men (Federals) were just about to fire on them. Colonel Fry himself was at the right of his regiment, at the point of the greatest danger. General Zollicoffer was within a few feet of the Colonel. A gun-coat concealed his uniform. Seeing the condition of his men, as Colonel Fry rode up General Zollicoffer said, "Colonel, you would not fire upon your friends, would you?" Colonel Fry supposed, from the General's manner and remark, that he was one of our own officers, and at once replied, "Certainly not, Sir, I have no such intention." He turned and rode a few steps, when one of the General's aids rode at him, shouting, "Flee! Flee! Flee!" The aid then turned back, and Colonel Fry at once wheeled and fired at the General. The latter raised his hand to his breast and fell dead. Another ball struck him at the same moment in the arm.



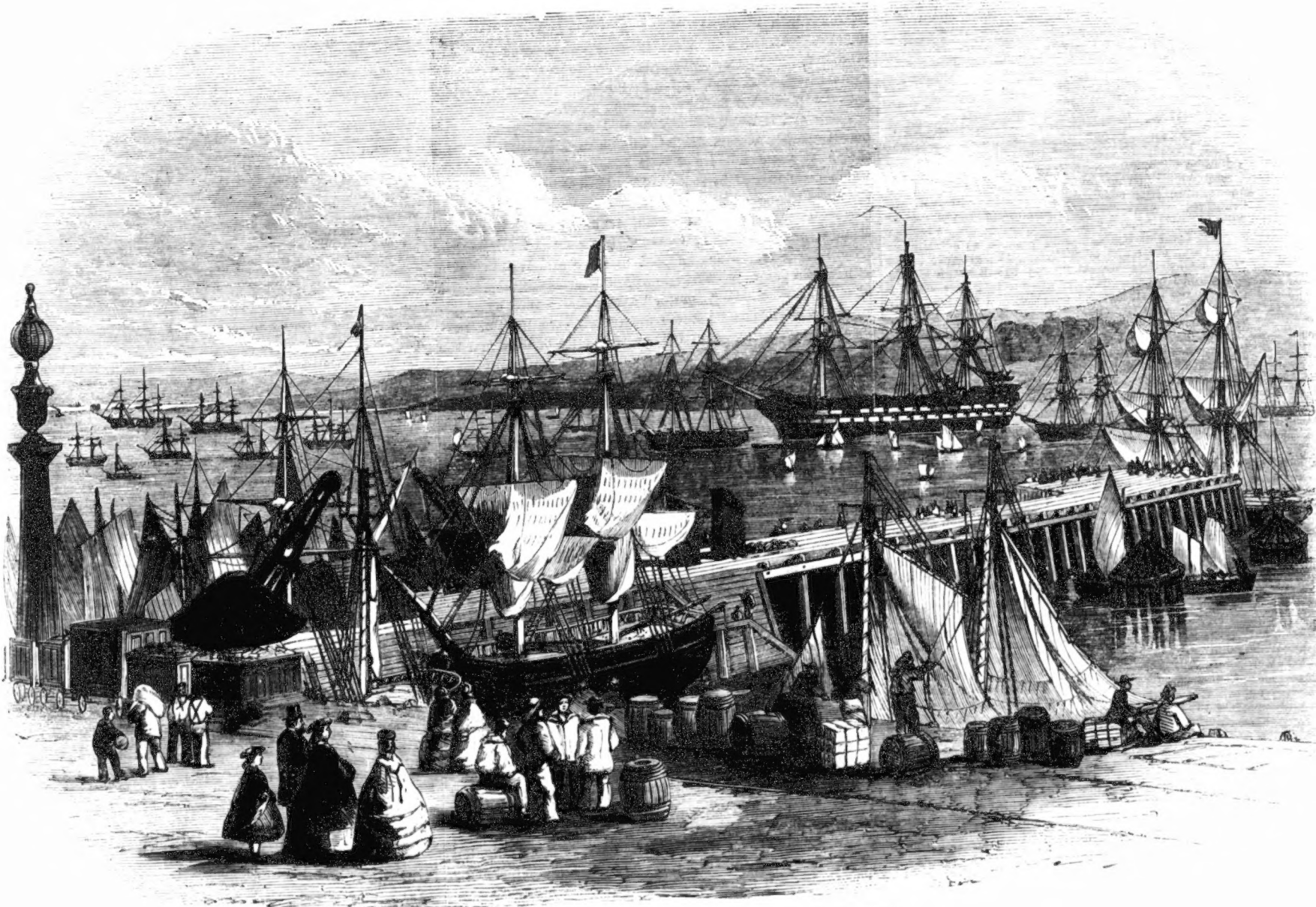


THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.—THE DEATH OF GENERAL ZOLLICOFFER, AT MILL SPRING, SOMERSET, KENTUCKY.





A SCENE AT THE RECENT LONGFORD ELECTION. (FROM A SKETCH BY FREDERICK VASEY.)



THE BOSCAWEN TRAINING SHIP AT SOUTHAMPTON. (FROM A SKETCH BY P. BRANNON.)



## THE LONGFORD ELECTION.

THE late contest in the county of Longford is likely to become memorable in electioneering annals. The accounts received represent the intimidation, violence, and outrage indulged in to be such as utterly to destroy freedom of election, and render the polling a farce. On entering the town of Granard, Colonel White's agents were attacked by the mob, pulled off the cars, and severely beaten in presence of the priests. The military were called out, and succeeded in saving those gentlemen from the fury of the multitude. At Carrickglass several electors were severely beaten, two men being left almost dead from the violence to which they were subjected. The Rev. Mr. Gregg, a Protestant clergyman, was brutally assaulted, and had a narrow escape for his life. His son was hunted by the mob and stoned. Colonel White's voters were stopped on the road by an infuriated rabble, and driven back with bludgeons. The tenants of Chief Justice Lefroy, proceeding in a body to vote for Colonel White, were so violently assailed that they fled for their lives. It is stated that houses were wrecked and burnt. Many voters purposely absented themselves. Others were kidnapped, and a great number were probably afraid to venture out at all to vote.

The reporter of the *Dublin Daily Express*, relating what he saw and heard on the spot, states that the town of Longford was crowded with men armed with heavy bludgeons; that the constabulary were drawn up almost in a continuous line to protect the friends of Colonel White; that the booths were scenes of uproar and confusion; and that Colonel White's voters on leaving were pursued and pelted with stones. Among other outrages he relates the following:—Several voters were in the house of a man named Walpole, near Granard; the house was attacked by a mob in the night, and the electors were dragged out and beaten, so that some of them were deterred from voting next day in terror for their lives. In the town of Granard, it is stated, Inspector Holmes was struck with a knife in the breast, which cut open his tunic; the blow being intended for one of Colonel White's voters. Mr. Baron, resident magistrate, was struck on the head with a stone, and severely cut. Major Hassental, Deputy-Lieutenant of the county, was struck with a bludgeon. Alexander Scanlan was carried home disabled by a blow on the head with a stone of four pounds weight, inflicting injuries which were near proving fatal. A. Montgomery had an eye nearly knocked out. It is alleged that in some parts of the county the organised mobs waylaid the voters, and compelled them, under dreadful threats, to swear that they would not vote for Colonel White.

It is but fair to add that the allegations of violence and intimidation are totally denied by Major O'Reilly's friends, who assert that they acted with perfect fairness and moderation towards their opponents. Irish notions of "fairness and moderation" during the heat of an election, however, may be very different from those which obtain among the less excitable and more staid population of England; and the declaration made by the High Sheriff that he neither saw nor heard of the violence described while attending in his official capacity in the town of Longford during the election is not inconsistent with the occurrence of violence outside the town itself, beyond the range of the Sheriff's personal observation even within it, or at the other polling places in the county. So that such denials really go for nothing. An investigation into the whole affair, however, will probably take place, and the truth may thus be got at—perhaps; for no doubt equally conflicting accounts will be given of the matter then as now. Meantime, there can be no question that a large amount of excitement, to use a mild phrase, did take place; and the accompanying Engraving will convey some idea of the scenes enacted among the free and enlightened, fair and moderate, people of Longford when the gallant commander of the Pope's Irish volunteers was elected to represent them in the British Parliament.

Colonel Luke White, the defeated candidate, has just published the following address to the electors:—

Gentlemen,—I have to express my gratitude to those amongst you who had the courage (in many cases at the risk of your lives) to record your votes in my favour. I had hoped that the antecedents of my family in Longford might have procured me a trial, and my well-known attachment to the principles of civil and religious liberty would have prevented the contest from assuming a character so lawless and disgraceful. But every species of violence and intimidation was put in force to prevent my return, and no candid mind can accept the result as the fair expression of freedom of opinion in the county. If such results were submitted to there would be an end to freedom of election; and I therefore feel it my duty to you to endeavour, by every means in my power, to expose those practices of which I complain, and to restore to you the opportunity of selecting, undisturbed by violence or faction, the representative of your choice.

## THE BOSCAWEN TRAINING-SHIP, SOUTHAMPTON.

THE growing importance of Southampton as one of our great shipping entrepôts, and the number of the youth of the place who indicated a desire to adopt the nautical profession, suggested the advantage of establishing in that port some institution suitable for receiving and training lads who should ultimately become the "jolly tars" destined to man our navies and maintain the honour of England all the world over. Accordingly, some time ago, the ship *Eagle* was set apart at Southampton to serve as a training-school for sailor-boys, the credit of initiating the measure being claimed by Mr. Digby Seymour, M.P. for the borough. The experiment was eminently successful, for after a time it was found that the *Eagle* was too small for the purpose, and the boys who belonged to that ship were transferred to the *Boscawen*, a much larger vessel, and capable of accommodating about 500 pupils. The *Boscawen* is an old sailing line-of-battle ship of 70 guns, and was last in commission as the flag-ship on the Cape of Good Hope station; and, having done good service in her time on the ocean, is now devoted to the training of boys for the Royal Navy, who on board of her receive that instruction which will enable them to play a part worthy of their predecessors in manning, and, if need be, fighting, those mighty ironides which are fast taking the place of the "wooden walls" which were formerly the boast of Britons, and of which the *Boscawen* is an honourable representative. The duties the lads have to perform in the training-ship consist chiefly of drill in the use of both smallarms and great guns, as well as in the ordinary routine work of a seaman, such as knotting, splicing, reefing, &c.; and, after a certain period of this training, the youths are draughted on board of seagoing ships, where they serve in the capacity of "boys" till they attain the rating of "ordinary" or "able" seamen. While on board of the training-ship, the boys obtain the advantage of instruction in the ordinary branches of education, besides acquiring some knowledge of navigation, and are thus fitted to become a race of sailors of a more intelligent character than that race of "old salts" from whom the men for the Royal Navy have hitherto been recruited. Our Engraving, from a sketch by Mr. Brannon, of Southampton, shows the *Boscawen* at her moorings in the Southampton Water; and a visit to the ship will well repay the trouble. The lads take a lively interest in the performance of their duties, are well clothed, lodged, and cared for, and their healthy, contented, and sailor-like appearance is extremely pleasing and gratifying to all who take an interest in that most important question—the efficient manning of the Royal Navy.

THE ALBERT MEMORIAL.—It appears that the contributions to the Albert testimonial are not coming in so freely as is desirable, owing to the existence of a misconception with regard to the cost of the proposed obelisk. The idea is prevalent that the expense will be comparatively moderate, whereas a much larger sum than that which has thus far been received will be necessary in order to erect a monument worthy of the illustrious deceased, and of the national respect for his memory.

MR. BLONDELIN has had a narrow escape at Liverpool. He was carrying a man along the tightrope when part of the supports of the line gave way, and both Mr. Blondelin and his burden fell to the ground. Luckily neither was hurt, and the performance was immediately resumed and completed.

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## ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 1862.

## TRADE MARKS AND TRADE MORALITY.

IT is not long since Mr. Roebuck took the mechanic class to task for their lack of the certain social virtues which, according to the views of the hon. gentleman, were ordinarily exercised in the higher spheres of society. But, after all, there is some excuse in his surroundings for the tinker or the needle-grinder who fails, in the moral sense, to become a gentleman. It seems, however, that we may ascend a step in society and yet mark a deviation from true gentleness, of a different kind, but no less diverse than that of the mechanic. To the hard-handed artisan belongs the vice of the rude tongue, the deficiency of the untaught mind. To the tradesman—not merely the petty shopkeeper, but to the more extensive commercial distributor and the manufacturer—appertain the constant and habitual exercise of petty shifts and mean frauds, the universal practice of which alone serves to remove them from the legal category of actual crime.

In another column we record the case of a trader selling an article fraudulently adulterated, not only to the extent of 75 per cent, but with materials which rendered the remaining 25 not only useless but deleterious. Yet, although this was clearly proved, a jury of the shopkeeping class acquitted the prisoner. Our most ordinary victuals are scandalously, shamelessly adulterated; and where this is impossible, as in the case of fruit, eggs, or vegetables, the public are systematically cheated in quality, weight, measure, or tale. The medical authorities at our principal lunatic asylums attribute the present alarming increase of brain disease to the adulterations of food. Physiologists concur in laying the cause of the frequent brutal assaults committed by drunken ruffians of our day to the doors of those who adulterate with maddening drugs the liquors which otherwise might refresh, exhilarate, or even inebriate, but which in a proper state would never excite to murderous fury. Our lower orders now do not get "drunk" so much as "intoxicated," a phrase which, from its Latin etymon, *toxicum* (poison), means quite another affair.

There are, it need scarcely be said, among the trading and manufacturing classes dealers who by their strict honesty, by the purity and excellence of their wares, gain a certain renown which compensates by increased custom for the loss of the transient profits of less scrupulous commerce. In order to challenge that distinction which, if unsupported by merit, would become a caution instead of an inducement to purchasers, certain trade marks are adopted by those who desire to gain an honest reputation. The trickery of the dishonest provides what make be called a "counter" to this contrivance, by adopting the same token as a stamp upon their own inferior productions. So great an evil has this practice become that the well-earned fame of our best manufacturers has been injured by it. Worthless hardware, bearing the brand of the most celebrated English houses, has been exported into foreign markets, until at length the serious discredit, abroad no less than at home, brought upon the English trader by this system has reached an extent which necessitates legislative interference.

It is not our purpose to discuss the details or the legal aspect of the measure now before Parliament with the object of effecting a reform in this matter. But it deserves a few reflections from a social point of view. The established honesty of our nation, maintained through centuries, has proved ere now of no slight political importance in our dealings with strangers. This confidence has been, and still continues to be, recklessly undermined by the practices of which we complain. But there are other and even more serious considerations involved in such commercial delinquencies. If the rough language, the domestic brutality, the general ungentleness and lack of honourable principle, alleged by Mr. Roebuck against the humbler classes be a proper theme for public reprobation and reproach, what is to be said of their superiors who descend to the slinking meannesses of the thief and the forger? For what is it but theft to steal from the purchaser's pound of tea or ounce of mustard a large proportion of that for which he pays, even though the mere weight or bulk be supplied by some other ingredient more or less deleterious? What is it, morally, but forgery to use, fraudulently, certain symbols, first adopted by another, although these may be hieroglyphs instead of calligraphs, and although the material upon which they are

impressed may be steel instead of paper or parchment? Legally, the one may not be forgery, nor the other theft. Both may be sanctioned by custom, both may be regarded with undue lenity by juries themselves not unacquainted with the "tricks of trade." But in each case the moral turpitude remains the same, although it may be intangible by the laws at present in force against the ruder species of crime. It is the legislative recognition of this indisputable truth which is sought to be effected by the measure which, while we write, is engaging the attention of a Select Committee of the House of Commons.

## SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN, who, with the Royal family, is at Windsor Castle, takes outdoor exercise daily. The Princess of Prussia still continues with her Majesty.

THE PRINCE OF WALES arrived at Alexandria on the 1st. His Royal Highness left immediately for Cairo, the Nile, and Upper Egypt. The Prince will remain in Egypt for about a month.

HER MAJESTY has presented to Mr. Disraeli a portrait of herself and one of the Prince Consort, in memoriam. The one of his late Royal Highness is a remarkably fine likeness. They were executed in Germany.

It is intended to build for the service of her Majesty a medium-sized paddlewheel yacht.

THE EARL OF ELGIN arrived at Aden on the 17th ult., and was to proceed at once to Point de Galle, on route for India.

MIDDELETTIENS has accepted an engagement at Barcelona, and has left Paris for that city.

CHIEF JUSTICE COCKBURN, on opening the Rutland Assizes, at Oakham, had the gratification of holding a "maiden assize" for the first time in his judicial career.

A MARRIAGE is arranged to take place shortly between Major-General G. Bruce Michell and Lady Frances Legge, daughter of the late Earl of Dartmouth.

PELYN HOUSE, the seat of N. Kendall, Esq., M.P., was last week totally destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at between £5000 and £6000.

AMONG THE FUGITIVES KILLED AT FORT DONNELSON is reported Colonel Russell, of the 10th Connecticut, who fell dead from his horse without receiving the slightest wound.

A DESPATCH FROM MELBOURNE, dated the 20th of January, states that in the great match between the England Eleven and the players of Victoria the former were victorious.

THE AMERICAN PAPERS say that the Japanese Ambassadors were to leave Jeddo for England on the 21st of January last.

It is reported that a distinguished metropolitan volunteer officer (Lord Ranelagh) will be appointed second in command at the proposed review at Brighton on Easter Monday.

THE FIRM OF ALDERMAN SIR HENRY MUGGERIDGE, corn-factors, of London, has suspended payments; liabilities £200,000. Sir Henry was a candidate for the mayoralty at the last election. He was a director of the Bank of London.

A MOVEMENT is on foot for holding a grand review of the volunteer corps of East Norfolk and Suffolk in the month of June.

A MONSTER PUBLIC MEETING at SOUTHAMPTON has resolved upon supporting the bills in Parliament for broad-gauge railways between Redbridge and Southampton, and between Andover and Newbury, in opposition to the South-Western Company.

THE PROCESSION OF THE BEUF GRAS at PARIS this year called forth no enthusiasm. Not a single man was to be seen in the Boulevards. That is a sign of great dullness in Paris.

A PARLIAMENTARY RETURN moved for by Mr. Williams shows that the total income in 1860 was £71,194,127. In 1861 it was £70,567,998, the excess of expenditure over income being £2,474,670.

A MARRIAGE will shortly be celebrated between a daughter of the Dowager Marchioness of Bath, and the Hon. Colonel Feilding, son of the Earl of Denbigh.

THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT purposes erecting a second telegraph wire between Calcutta and Bombay, in consequence of the large amount of traffic on the present single line of telegraphic communication between the two cities.

MR. EDWIN HARTHAM, apprehended on suspicion of setting fire to the Hirst Silk Mill at Biddulph, has been released, the police being unable to discover evidence sufficient to warrant his detention.

A COUPLE of "Ghosts," it appears, have recently taken to wandering about the abbey grounds at Bury St. Edmunds.

THE FISHING-BOATS OF GRANVILLE, numbering 150, took, on Wednesday week, on the bank of La Foraine, 1,160,000 oysters.

A MAN (or monster) amused himself at Northampton, a few days ago, by skinning a live dog. He has been condemned to three years' hard labour.

DUMOLLARD, the French murderer, was executed on Saturday last. He persisted to the last in asserting that he was only the agent of others, and conducted himself with much effrontery and indifference.

THE result of a case tried in the Isle of Man, a few days ago, shows that by the Manx law embezzlement is not punishable.

DURING A SOUTH-WESTERN GALE last week four French fishing-vessels were lost off Fécamp. Each vessel had a crew of six men on board, all of whom perished.

MESSES. BROWN AND GELLATLY, who were the confidential managers of the vast maritime operations of the late Mr. Duncan Dunbar, are his executors. The amount of the property is believed to be fully as great as was reported—a million and a half sterling.

SINCE THE INCIDENT OF THE "ROW" WITH THE SERVANT, the Elector of Hesse never retires to rest without having his bedroom furnished with a pair of pistols, a sword, and a life-preserver.

THE MADRID JOURNALS intimate that in the provinces efforts are being made to promote insubordination, but that the precautions of the Government are sufficient to ward off any danger that may be threatened.

A "FORTUNE-TELLER" at Kingsbridge, the other day, obtained £37 from a blind man, whom she undertook to cure by rubbing his eyes with the Canaan stone, and repeating a prayer. The impostor is in custody.

THE BODY OF CAPTAIN CREIL RIVERS, aged thirty-nine, Adjutant to the 3rd Surrey Militia, and previously holding a commission in the 19th Regiment of Foot, has been found in the Thames. He was last seen on the 3rd ult., in a tipsy condition, walking along the river bank.

THE GEORGE MARSHALL, London and Sydney passenger-ship of 1123 tons, was wrecked on Flinders Island, Bass's Straits, on the 11th of January. Her crew and passengers were all saved. The ship and cargo were valued at £40,000, and it is believed they were fully insured.

SEVERE STORMS, attended with serious loss of life and damage to shipping, have occurred on the coast within the last few days. The fishing-boat *Crystal Palace* was lost off Plymouth, when all hands perished.

A NEW LAW on PASSPORTS has been presented to the Prussian Chamber of Deputies by Count Schwerin. It proposes to abolish the obligation of being furnished with a passport for the interior as well as for abroad, but the right of obtaining one, if the traveller wishes it, is maintained.

THE TRANSPORT-SHIP SPARTAN has been lost in the Atlantic. Captain Hand, of the 63rd Regiment, his wife and child, together with the chief officer and two seamen, were drowned, and Captain Hand's servant-girl afterwards died from the effects of injuries she had sustained.

A MEMORIAL has been transmitted by the friends of ragged schools in Birmingham to the Committee of Council on Education urging the duty of the State to give liberal financial aid to such schools, availing itself, as in the case of reformatories, of that voluntary effort which is an essential condition of their success.

THE FRIENDLY RECEPTION of which Prince Oscar has been the object at the Court of Turin has caused the greatest satisfaction in Sweden, and it seems nearly positive that Prince Humbert, of Piedmont, will visit Sweden in the course of the summer, and be the guest of the King during the military manoeuvres at the camp of Seanie.

SEVERAL SPANISH PARLIAMENTS will attend the approaching convocation at Rome.

MR. OLIVE, the Under Secretary for the Home Department, is steadily progressing towards recovery.

It is said that the camp of Châlons will be established at the beginning of April, under the command of Marshal M'Mahon.

A MEMORIAL, in the form of a "brass," has been let into the wall of the nave of Westminster Abbey in the memory of the late Robert Stephenson, the eminent engineer.

THE BRANDS served out in the Prussian Army will be henceforth replaced by coffee. Each man will receive two-fifths of an ounce per day in time of peace and half an ounce in time of war.



## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

The Army and Navy Estimates, except one vote in the former, are all voted, and we have arrived no further in the Session than the 14th of March. This is a novelty—a fact unparalleled in modern Parliamentary history. The Civil Service Estimates will be placed upon the table immediately. The first book is already printed; and, as they should go through the House as rapidly as the Army and Navy votes did, we shall have all the money voted before Easter, or soon after; and then the question will be how the House is to employ its time till the private business can be disposed of and Parliament can decently rise; for there are but few bills of importance to be discussed; and at present, with the exception of the revised code—which will take several nights—no subjects of magnitude appear above the horizon.

The quidnuncs about the House and the clubs, who profess to be able to see the wind, shake their heads and look wise, and prophesy that this dead calm forebodes a storm; but there is really not the slightest sign of change in the political hemisphere at present, not a cloud as big as a man's hand; and the political barometer is steady at "Fair." Still, it is impossible to say what a day may bring forth; for at any moment something may turn up unexpectedly that may throw us all into confusion.

Rumour whispers that when the change shall come—and come it will, she declares, inevitably next year, if not this—that Disraeli will be the next Premier, and Lord Derby only adviser-general, with a seat in the Cabinet, but without office. I give no credence whatever to this report; but it is believed—and bets of high amount have been made—that the great Caucasian will mount to this loftiest point of his ambition in less than two years. I would not bet a year of my poor earnings against the Speaker's salary that Disraeli will ever be Premier.

On Monday night not a few of the members of the House of Commons were regularly sold. The case was this. Supply was "the order of the day;" several notices of motion on going into Supply were upon the paper; some seven or eight votes in the Army Estimates remained to be passed; some five or six orders of the day were to follow; and then there were bills to be introduced and committees to be appointed. With such a bill of fare before them the majority of the members went to dinner, each thinking that on his return the House would be just getting into Supply. But one and all reckoned without their host. For at half-past eight this mass of business had been all disposed of, and the House was up. General Peel, who had much to say upon a certain Army vote, would not go home to dinner, but took his chop at the House, and whilst he was quietly refreshing himself the bell rang announcing that all was over. Mr. Hennessy had an amendment to make in the Army Commission Bill, and had whipped his friends up to support him; but as this bill was the last order he thought himself quite safe in going away for an hour, and went, and got back just in time to find that the bill had run through Committee without a word spoken, and the House adjourned. And so it was with Mr. Brady, who had a Committee on Sewage to move. He, too, went away, and got back and entered the House just as Mr. Speaker was leaving the chair.

Monday next will be a field-night, for then the international law question will be resumed, and Cobden and Bright, and Palmerston and Disraeli, will speak. What course will Disraeli take? The possible future Premier will find himself in no small difficulty. If he pronounce in favour of change, he may hamper himself inconveniently with pledges which, when he gets into office, he may find it impossible to redeem; and yet it will be hard for him to resist the temptation to support his "honourable friend" Mr. Thomas Baring, and his "honourable friend" Mr. Horsfall, both his staunch supporters; and still harder to forego an opportunity to harass and perhaps to beat the Government. Perhaps he will adopt a safe middle course, or in his speech envelop, as he well knows how when so inclined, the whole subject in a fog, and when the division comes slip out of the House. At present four of his supporters, Horsfall, Baring, Liddell, and Bowyer, have spoken in favour of change. This is an awkward dilemma; and we wait anxiously to see how the Conservative leader will get out of it. The main object of the motion is to prevent the capture of trading vessels in time of war.

The Irish fire-eater, Major O'Reilly, has been anxiously looked for, but has not turned up yet. From all I hear, I should say that his dear-bought Parliamentary honours will be very shortlived. A petition will be presented, that is certain; and it is also certain that Captain Luke White, who has loads of money—or if he has not, his father has—will spare no cost to punish the audacious Major for pushing the White family out of a seat which they have held for many years.

The death of Mr. Plint, of Leeds, is a far greater blow to the pre-Raphaelite brotherhood than the recent succession of Mr. Ruskin, for while the latter gentleman's picturesque essays verified the proverb that "fine words butter no parsnips," the former expended vast sums of money in fostering the school by purchasing its works, almost indiscriminately. The pictures thus collected were brought to the hammer of Messrs. Christie and Manson last week, and both during the "on view" days and the days of sale attracted crowds of connoisseurs. The P.R.B.s were, indeed, splendidly represented. Mr. Millais's advance in art could be seen from his earliest picture of "Christ in the Carpenter's Shop," crude, ugly, and repulsive, but in parts beautifully painted, to the exquisite finish of the dress, and the sweet, feminine expression in the face of the girl bidding adieu to the "Black Brunswicker." These two pictures were painted at an interval of ten years. There were also Mr. Hunt's "Holy Land" picture and a capital repetition of the "Claudio and Isabella" which first called him into notice; Mr. Madox Brown's "Last of England," an emigrant and his wife sitting in the stern of a ship and watching the receding land—one of the most touching pictures ever painted—originally exhibited in a semi-private collection in Charlotte-street; Mr. Windus's "Bard Helen;" and Mr. Wallis's "Elaine." Melancholy reminiscences were aroused by the sight of poor Mr. Laund's "Nearing Home" and "Girl I left behind me"—works of one of the most promising artists of the day, cut off in the flower of his youth; and people gazed half in wonder, half in admiration, at the wonderful colour and quaint grotesqueness of Mr. Dante Rossetti's water-colour drawings. Capital landscapes of Messrs. Oakes and Brett, Eastern sketches by Mr. John Lewis, Mr. Millais's design for "Framley Parsonage," and some gems of Edward Fyffe, were also in the sale, which realised nearly twenty thousand pounds—Mr. Millais's "Black Brunswicker" fetching the largest price.

Mr. Auguste Bonheur (brother of the famous Rosa) has a splendid picture of sheep and cattle being driven to a fair, now on view. It is of extraordinary size—thirteen feet long—and painted with microscopic exactitude. The atmospheric effect is admirably rendered.

The obituary of the week contains the name of Mr. Frank Talfourd, the well-known burlesque-writer, and the eldest son of the late Mr. Justice Talfourd. A pleasant, kind-hearted man, overhanging with quaint conceits and pleasant fancies, he will long live in the memory of a large circle. His first burlesque, "Alcestis," written while in the University, was perhaps his best.

Mr. Willie Collins's novel, "No Name," begins this week in *All the Year Round*. Miss Martineau and Mrs. Wood, authoress of "East Lynne," begin stories in *Once a Week*, where Mr. Tom Taylor will also appear as a novel-writer.

Mr. C. Reau will probably shortly give a series of Shakspearean readings at the Egyptian Hall.

Mr. Robin, also, at the Egyptian Hall, has recently introduced into his Soirées Fantastiques some interesting novelties in the shape of views obtained by a new combination; and his account and illustrations of his tour in the East and the Holy Land are alike curious, interesting, and amusing. Any one paying a visit to Mr. Robin will be well repaid for the trouble.

## THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

"Nos Intimes," a play which has had a great success in Paris, has been translated for the St. James's, where, under the title "Friends or Foes," it has made a decided hit. The story is that of a man who is delivered from a set of false friends by the talent and devotion of one in whose friendship he had placed but little confidence. The piece is charmingly acted by Miss Herbert, Mr. G. Vining, Mr. and Mrs. F. Matthews, and, notably, by Mr. Dewar, who has by his performance established himself in the first ranks of the profession.

A pretty drama, called "The Wife's Portrait," not new in plot, but written by Mr. Westland Marston in a style free from his usual turgidity, has been produced at the Haymarket.

## OBELISKS.

THE proposal of her Majesty to make the intended memorial to the late Prince Consort an obelisk of imposing size and grandeur has elicited a good deal of discussion on the subject of obelisks in general and monoliths in particular; and in reference to this matter an interesting letter appeared in the *Times* a few days ago, from which we make the following extracts:—

This idea of an obelisk naturally suggests three questions—viz., the material, the size, and the mode of transportation. As to material, the British Islands give us abundant specimens of the finest granite, a stone with which we are all familiar. London-bridge is a specimen of the blue-grey granite of Aberdeenshire. All the granite of the Royal Exchange is the granite of Devonshire, differing but little in quality and not at all in colour. Waterloo-bridge (at least all the upper part) is Cornish granite, of a less compact texture and a somewhat lighter colour. The granite of Peterhead, in Aberdeenshire, was, I believe, first introduced into London by the late John Rennie, the engineer, who directed that a slab of it should cover his grave. We are now very familiar with it in the polished shafts of the Carlton Club, in all our cemeteries, and it is generally the material which we see polished in the drinking-fountains. It is very compact and beautiful.

The granite spoken of as the Ross of Mull is much coarser and of a brighter red. I have a polished specimen I brought from that neighbourhood, which is very beautiful in colour but very coarse. It appears limited to the south-western extremity of the island of Mull, and the formation is surrounded by the sea on three sides. I never visited the quarries at Peterhead, in Aberdeenshire; but the granite of that locality is occasionally scintillating or porphyritic, which latter characteristic is often seen in the polished specimens. I am not aware whether these quarries can be approached from the sea, but I believe the stones at present are brought by land to Aberdeen and then shipped. Leaving for the moment this part of the question, I now come to monolithic obelisks. They had their origin, as all your readers know, in Egypt. Their use is well known. They were set up in pairs before the great temples, and they were used to record the dedication of the temples and obelisks to various deities, the names and titles of the Kings, with the fabled additions that usually accompanied such dedication. Champollion gives a translation of the inscriptions on the four faces of the Paris obelisk, which shows they were erected by Rameses I. and his son Rameses II. How many were set up in Egypt in the days of its greatness I have no means of knowing, but forty-eight of different sizes were removed to Rome. Augustus set the example, and it was followed by his successors down to Constantine. During that period of 540 years these forty-eight obelisks were set up in Rome, and were standing in the time of Valentinian and Valens, A.D. 364; for in the "Itinerary," or catalogue, of the public buildings made at that time by Papius Victor, we read as follows:—"Obelisks (great), six—viz., two in the Circus Maximus, the greater of which is 132ft. high, the lesser 25ft.; one in the Vatican, 82ft.; one in the Campus Martius, 72ft.; two at the Mausoleum of Augustus, 12ft. Obelisks (small), 42."

All these six great obelisks have survived the ravages of the Goth, the Christian, time, war, and flood, showing the enduring monumental power of a monolith. The largest of these stones—that before the Church of St. John Lateran—was originally set up at Thebes, it is supposed 1700 or 1800 years before Christ. After remaining 2000 years in its native city, it was floated down the Nile to Alexandria by Constantine; that Emperor having intended it to decorate his newly-founded city on the Bosphorus, but, having died before this was accomplished, his son Constantine brought it to Rome. It was conveyed from Alexandria to Ostia, and up the Tiber, in a vessel of 300 oars: it was then removed by land and set up as the spina of the Circus Maximus. The land journey extended to three miles, which was performed on low-wheeled waggon. The date of its being raised was A.D. 357. It is not known when it was thrown down, but it was found by Sixtus V. broken in three pieces and buried 21 Roman palms in the ground. Its height is stated to be 118 palms. It was set up in its present place, as was also the obelisk in front of St. Peter's, by the celebrated architect Fontana, who also removed and erected the great obelisk in front of St. Peter's. The Lateran Obelisk is red granite or sienite, and covered with hieroglyphs most beautifully cut. I believe all the Egyptian obelisks are red sienite, from the quarries of Syene (whence its name), and many travellers have noticed the fact that two unfinished obelisks of enormous size still remain in those quarries. This reference to the colour and material of the obelisks of antiquity leads me back to the first point of my remarks, and I have only to express a hope that the English monolith may be of red granite, and, if possible, of the granite of Peterhead, so similar in colour and quality to the Roman obelisks.

The third point to which I will shortly advert is the means and cost of removing, working, and setting up large stones. In ancient times, Herodotus speaks of a monolith temple of Letona removed 600 miles—of course, principally down the Nile—and, if its dimensions are to be relied upon, its weight must have been 3000 tons. The mode adopted by the Egyptians is shown, like everything else belonging to that remarkable people, in the paintings on the walls of the tombs. It was effected by mere brute force, and by thousands of men.

In modern times we have exact details of the method pursued by three architects—viz., that of Fontana, in his book, "Della Trasportazione dell' Obelisco Vaticano," published in 1766; next, the removal of the great Obelisk on which the statue of Peter the Great stands, by Le Comte, Chevalier, of Livorno, Paris, 1777; and lastly, the curious book of St. Lebar, the French architect, employed to bring the obelisk of Luxor to Paris and to set it up in the Place de la Concorde, Paris, 1830. The St. Petersburg monolith was found in the marshes of Finland, is of dark grey granite, and it weighed 1150 tons, was moved four miles by land, and floated across the gulf of Finland on a great raft towed by two ships. The expense, as far as I can make out, was 70,000 roubles. In the French instance, the obelisk was lowered into a canal cut to the Nile, and received into a vessel (the Luxor) built on purpose, having an opening in the stern. This vessel crossed from Alexandria to Toulon, then to Havre, and finally ascended the Seine, where it was moored at the foot of the incline leading up to the Quai, and the obelisk was rolled on a platform to the middle of the Place de la Concorde, where it was set up. The cost of this work is stated variously at from £25,000 to £30,000.

In conclusion, I may add that a monolithic obelisk, of the exact proportions of the Luxor obelisk, and 100 feet high, would be 100 ft. in diameter at the base, and 6 ft. 6 in. under the pyramidion; and its weight, wrought and polished, of Peterhead granite, would be about 600 tons. To procure and raise such a stone in Hyde Park ought not to offer any particular difficulties to the architects of our own country.

## OBITUARY.

GENERAL SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, G.C.B.—This distinguished officer died on Friday week at his residence at Clifton, in his seventy-seventh year. He entered the Army in 1791. The latter years of Sir James Douglas's life were passed at Clifton. He married Marianna, daughter of Mr. William Balfour. Lady Douglas died in June, 1861. They had a family of eleven children, of whom five sons and four daughters survive. Sir James Douglas was brother to the Dowager Marchioness of Queensberry, and great-uncle to the present Marquis.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR HENRY SOMERSET.—The colonelcy of the 25th (The King's Own Borderers) Regiment is vacant by the demise of Lieutenant-General Sir Henry Somerset, K.C.B., late Commander-in-Chief in Bombay. The late General was the eldest son of Lord Charles Somerset, son of Henry, the fifth Duke of Beaufort, by his marriage with the Hon. Elizabeth, fourth daughter of William, second Viscount Courtenay. Sir Henry was born Dec. 30, 1791, was married to a daughter of the Admiral Sir H. Hesthote; and entered the Army in 1811.

ADMIRAL CHURCH, C.B.—The death of Admiral Church, C.B., at the age of seventy-three, took place on the 7th inst., at Derby. He entered the Navy in 1794, as first-class volunteer, on board the *Repulse*, and, after serving in it for six years, was present in Sir Robert Calder's action with the combined fleets of France and Spain. He witnessed the capture of the *Marago*, 50 guns, and the 40-gun frigate *Belle Poule*, in 1805; was present at the taking of the President, 11; and attended the expedition to Flushing and Constantinople in 1807 and 1809. In 1826 he obtained great praise for very meritorious services rendered to Sir Edward Codrington at the battle of Navarino, for which he was also mentioned in despatches and nominated C.B. He was invested with the orders of St. Louis of France, St. Vladimir of Russia, and the Redemptor of Greece.

THE LATE PROFESSOR BARLOW, F.R.S.—This distinguished man, who died on the 1st instant, was born in Norwich in 1776, and educated in that

city. His mathematical acquirements and his energetic character displayed themselves at an early age. In 1806 he was appointed one of the mathematical professors at the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich, which office he held until 1817. He was the author of numerous works, among which are his well-known treatises on "The Theory of Number," "The Strength of Materials," and his "Essay on Magnetism." In 1817 he retired from the Royal Military Academy, when the Government awarded him his full income in consideration of his eminent services. His simple and upright character, and his kind and cheerful disposition, endeared him to a large circle of friends.

MR. FRANCIS TALFOURD.—The intelligence of the death of Mr. Francis Talfourd, barrister-at-law, the well-known burlesque-writer, has just been received in England, having occurred at Mentone, in the south of France, on Sunday. Mr. Talfourd was in his thirty-fifth year, and was the eldest son of the late eminent judge and author, Sir T. N. Talfourd, D.C.L. He was educated at Eton, and, we believe, at Oxford. He was called to the Bar in due course, and occasionally went circuit, but was better known as an accomplished literary man than as a lawyer. He began a series of burlesques and travesties with "The Willow-pattern Plate," which was produced at the Strand, and, we believe, "Alcestis." In society Mr. Talfourd was universally beloved. He married a daughter of Mr. J. Towne, a solicitor, of Margate, four or five months since.

## Literature.

*Seasoning for a Seasoner; or, the New Gradus ad Parnassum.* A Satire. By BROOK B. STEVENS. Trübner and Co.

Mr. Stevens has intelligence, reading, and smartness; but he keeps a conscience, and cannot make up his mind—two points fatal to the pretensions of a satirist. Hardly any treatment could be bad enough for Mr. Austin, and Mr. Stevens should have laid on with a will while he was about it. As it is, he has only produced a very thin octavo which does not justify or even explain itself, and we must always have a very strong case made out for satirical writing. Satire, at its very best, is only to be tolerated—a base instrument reserved for base offences, and wielded by a functionary who, of his own accord, takes rank with the very venials of justice—a volunteer Jack Ketch, who has so much gall that he consents to be odious, in order to be relieved of what he has not the wisdom and goodness to transmute into something better. The worst of it is that the creature gets undue credit for kindly touches, which in any other sort of writing would pass unnoticed. That was precisely the case with the man Austin, who was about the most utterly contemptible specimen of his kind that ever mistook the riddled hags of the stews for muses. Mr. Stevens has a cleanly and good-natured brain, and let him thank Heaven that he has not been furnished with "vigour" at the cost of being kept out of so much that is lovely in a young mind. A satirist (over fifteen and) under forty is a monster.

*The History and Articles of Masonry.* Now first Published from a MS. in the British Museum. By MATTHEW COOKE. Richard Spencer.

Brother Cooke, after whose name on the titlepage there are seven lines of mystic dignities, dedicates this book to the "W. Brother John Havers, Esq., P.S.G.D.;" it is published by another "Bro.;" and eight pages are filled with the names of "Bros." who subscribe to its production, which must have been rather a costly business. Altogether, it is a most brotherly affair, and cannot fail to interest "brothers." General readers will find nothing in it to gratify an ordinary curiosity. There is the not-unfamiliar hash about Abraham and Enoch, and Tubal Cain, and no end of incongruous things and persons; there are some good rules of conduct; and a facsimile of an old ornamental MS. is necessarily pretty. That is all we can say about this nice, gilt-edged octavo, unless we give it more space than we can spare. If we were a freemason we should certainly buy it.

*Rambles at Sunnyside; or, a Week with My Godchildren.* By AUNT CLARA. J. Nisbet and Co.

Aunt Clara's godchildren almost alter our settled belief in the necessity of noise for childhood. We have always been advocates for as much fighting and as little ill-nature in the nursery as possible. But really Master Hugh and little Annie are so wellbehaved, and so happy notwithstanding, that if they be realities they should be held up as patterns by every matrifamilias. However, the dear children are on a visit, and most likely somewhat frightened; and when they get home they will probably resume those habits of pegtopping in the parlour and arrow-putting into pigs which have made them the delight of Battous and the horror of Mary Hann. But while they have been with Aunt Clara they have been very industrious and very good—learning many Bible stories judiciously explained, and hearing many little tales calculated to enlist their affections. Nor have the wonders and beauties of Nature been forgotten, nor of Art; and the week has been as interesting as it has been instructive and well-ordered. Aunt Clara's "Rambles" will make sunshine in many a shady place. It will be a charming companion for the first studios hours; and in the kindest manner, which is the most sensible, will teach the little ones not only to read but to reflect. How quiet the house will be! The forty (if there be such a family) will read like one.

## CHEAP EDITIONS.

MESSRS. SMITH AND ELDER'S SHILLING "STANDARD AUTHORS."

Messrs. Smith and Elder have just put forth the latest claim to the dissemination of good fiction in a cheap and elegant form. For some years past, indeed, they have scarcely been far behind the world in this respect, their half-crown reprints of the works of Currer Bell and others having been prominent amongst easily accessible literature. But they also possess the material for an excellent shilling series in those short novels from various pens for which Cornhill has become famous. The one-volume novels of Talbot Gwynne, Holme Lee, &c., are the perfection of pleasant reading, and it is of these that the new library of "Standard Authors" is composed. Mr. Talbot Gwynne supplies "The Life and Death of Silas Barnstaple" and "Nannette and her Lovers," both excellently written, and showing how the author can fling himself into two so opposite scenes as London and the country in the Protectorate days and the village life of France during the first Revolution. Nannette is the more pleasing, having stirring as well as quiet scenes, and characters so well depicted in little, that they give all the illusion of miniatures under the microscope. Then follow "Gilbert Massinger" and "Thorney Hall," by Holme Lee, two curious books, again, remarkable for displaying firmness directed to totally different ends. Believers in woman's weakness (and strength!) will delight in "Tender and True" and "The Cruellest Wrong of All," the latter being a story which defies the strongest critical sagacity up to the very last chapter. Other volumes already published in this series are less strongly marked, but already enjoy a public of their own: they consist of "Erismere, or Contrasts of Character," "Rose Douglas," "My Lady" (there is a little too much of her), and "Confidences," a fascinating little story by the author of "Rita."

We have refreshed our memory of these favourite novels by glancing through the new editions, and can testify to the quality and elegance of paper and print which the reader cannot fail to enjoy. They are certainly in the front rank of similar endeavours.

## WARD AND LOCK'S SHILLING SERIES.

Amongst shilling books from another quarter, Messrs. Ward and Lock, we notice three volumes of tales and sketches which are not so sufficiently original to demand description or criticism, but will certainly be read with pleasure. Lieutenant Warneford, R.N., supplies "The Cruise of the Blue Jacket," an interesting story of a gentleman pirate, with a few other naval sketches full of life and sensation. "Storm-beaten," by William Buchanan and Charles Gibbon, and "The Night Mail," by Percy Fitzgerald, are severally collections of tales always well written and interesting, and not unfrequently distinguished by an ingenuity rarely to be found within magazine limits.





GILLOITT'S STEEL PEN FACTORY AT BIRMINGHAM



THE ANNEALING ROOM.



THE WAREHOUSE



THE LONG ROOM



## THE WORKSHOPS OF ENGLAND.

IN accordance with numerous representations, it is intended, during the present year, to devote some space in our columns to descriptive articles and engravings illustrating the principal manufactures for which the large centres of industry are most celebrated.

Although this has always been a feature, and—as we are assured—not the least interesting feature, of the ILLUSTRATED TIMES, we have hitherto adopted no very settled plan by which a regular series of such articles might appear in relation to any particular event. Now that the second Great Exhibition is so soon to be inaugurated, however, it is thought desirable that we should present our readers with well-considered and more frequent descriptions of those productions of English workshops to which the public attention will be so constantly directed.

## GILLOTT'S STEEL-PEN MANUFACTORY AT BIRMINGHAM.

"Every man to his trade" having been for ages accepted as one of those imperative maxims the wisdom and authority of which are alike indisputable, I found myself on the morning of Friday in last week in an express-train of the Great Western rattling on towards Birmingham at a speed with which even imagination (always less difficult than description) could scarcely keep pace. Of course, in quoting the popular proverb, I at once indicate that my own trade is writing, and, having stated that much, it is almost unnecessary to mention that I am bound on an excursion to inquire into the natural history of steel pens.

If anybody wishes to raise an objection to the expression "natural history" on the plea that it is more applicable to "quills," I beg leave at once to differ, and boldly avow that I can see nothing natural whatever in plucking the feathers from a harmless, not to say silly, bird, for the purpose of inscribing for the benefit of mankind "thoughts that breathe and words that burn" in imperishable characters. "Vive la plume!" by all means, but let it be on its native wing; while the "nib," too flexible to splutter and yet too firm to blot, characterises the literature of a greater age.

I am perfectly acquainted with the doggerel assertion of the celebrated Bishop who, after labouring to the completion of an enormous volume, wrote, with a triumphant flourish,

With one whole pen I wrote this book,  
Made of a grey goose quill;  
A pen it was when I it took,  
A pen I leave it still.

To what a desperate state of mind must that man have been driven before he could write in this way of even the worst pen! To what verges of insanity must the readers of his manuscript have gone before they could decipher the blurred and uncertain characters! I am looking out of window towards Stratford-upon-Avon and the house of Shakspeare. Where, let me ask, would have been the occupations of commentators vainly disputing over various readings if the steel pen of modern science could have been substituted for the quill of the immortal "Swan"?

Even after considerable research it is difficult to discover who was the first actual inventor of steel pens; but it would appear that the earliest attempt to manufacture them was that of a Mr. William Gadbury, a mathematical instrument maker, who, for his own use and that of his friends, constructed a somewhat clumsy article out of steel watchspring, from which were formed the two separate halves or "nibs," which were then brought together and secured by a metal band. His was only an amateur performance, however, and we believe it is principally to Mr. Joseph Gillott, of Birmingham, that we owe the perfection to which steel pens have been brought, since at the time when he commenced business, some forty years ago, much of the beautiful machinery now used in his manufactory had yet to be invented, and was afterwards invented by himself.

Being expected at the factory, I have little leisure to bestow upon the Hen and Chickens, where the five commercial gentlemen are sitting down to breakfast and speaking together in the low and solemn tones generally adopted in the room set apart for their accommodation; so turning down towards the vast and imposing Townhall, the windows of which I notice have not been cleaned lately, I branch off in the direction of the New Turkish Baths (a very

handsome structure, by-the-way), and find myself opposite the place of which I am in search.

It is an immense brick building, which looks something like a large asylum, a little like a manufactory, and more like an hospital than either, except that it stands uninclosed at the corner of a street, and two or three chimneys appear above it indicating that its inner quadrangle is devoted to machinery. There is no doubt of its being the right place, however, for there is the gate surmounted by the Royal arms, and here in the office up the stairs, as I enter the door at the side, I am met by one of the sons of Mr. Gillott himself, who confides me to the guidance of a superintendent. To him I make known my anxiety to see the various processes by which the raw material is converted into the beautiful "extra superfine," the gigantic "swan quill" magnum bonum, or the "school pen" with which my earliest experiences in caligraphy are associated.



GLADSTONE'S PECULIAR.—(FROM A PICTURE, BY J. HAYLLAR, IN THE EXHIBITION OF THE BRITISH INSTITUTION.)

The steel itself, which is manufactured of Swedish iron, is supplied in large thin plates by Messrs. Jessop and Son, of Sheffield, and the first of the series of operations towards converting it into pens commences in a room where a man is at work with a large lever-knife, like the blade of a hay-chopping machine, cutting the metal into long strips of the width required for the lengths of the different sorts of pens. Not having been hardened, these slips are carried into the rolling-room, where they are placed between steel rollers which revolve by means of steam machinery, and are only sufficient distance apart to admit each strip, and press it as it passes between them to the proper and uniform thinness.

The even bands of white glittering steel are then removed to the upper part of the factory, a range of light, clean workshops, well warmed and well ventilated. In these large rooms, which lead one into another, there are employed some five hundred girls and women—in busy times as many as six hundred—of whom a large majority appear healthy, and, if the nature of their work is considered, they must be tolerably strong. Indeed, there would seem to be nothing in any of the processes of pen-making which is essentially injurious to those engaged in it; and, as the wages average from four to fourteen shillings a week, this establishment exhibits, perhaps, one of our most successful experiments in the employment of women.

Those of the hands who are married generally go with their husbands to live at their former homes, in which case their children are intrusted to the care of the grandmothers, and the earnings are not seriously diminished.

I learn this much as I walk with my guide through the room to inspect the next destination of the steel strips. They are lying (a certain number of them) beside each of the workwomen as she sits at the lever by which the flat shape of the pen before it is curved into the half-cylindrical form is punched out by a die. These levers are all worked by hand, the strip being pushed with the left hand on to the bed of steel upon which the die descends, a stop regulating the distance, so that there is the smallest possible space between the holes left where the pen shape has been cut out; then with a quick pull at the lever handle the punch comes down, and this is repeated with such rapidity that the shapes are cut at the rate of about two

hundred a minute. In a similar manner the side slits are cut, and the hole in the centre of the pen is pierced at machines which differ very slightly from those which I have just left. The stamping of the name, however, requires the workwoman to use both hands for the purpose of properly adjusting the pen and holding it in its place, and in this operation the lever is moved by a treadle and wheel. Altogether this seems rather a dangerous process, and such was the rapidity with which it was executed that I was forcibly reminded of the old school trick of moving the finger backward and forward under a regularly descending penknife. There is one machine worked by steam, and used, I believe, for the largest "magnum bonums," which performs all these operations at the same time, these pen-shapes being brought alternately to three openings in the steel slab, and the dies descending upon them as they pass. This, however, is used only for the one description of pens.

The embryo pen, having received the side slit, piercing, and stamp, has next to be moulded into the half-cylindrical form, and in the case of the magnum bonums to have the broad part left for the barrel bent completely round. This having been accomplished, still with a hand-worked lever and mould, the pen is complete as far as mere form is concerned. In the range of shops where these levers are at work, there are machinists constantly employed to sharpen the dies and regulate the machines, while each of the girls is expected to keep the machine at which she works in good order, a rule so well observed that most of them are without a stain and polished with no little care.

Still following the pens in their progress towards perfection, I descend once more to a shop in the basement, something between a bakehouse and a smithy, where the furnaces are glowing so fiercely that the sharp draught coming round the corner by the open door cuts like a knife into a solid mass of heat. It is here that the annealing and hardening processes are accomplished, and the fine temper secured by the ordeal of fire. For

partly effecting this purpose the pens are placed in iron boxes, each somewhat larger than a cardbox, having a heavy lid lifting on a hinge, and at one end a small flat piece of iron, by which it is held in a pair of long tongs. These boxes are placed in the furnace, where they remain until they and their contents are at a light red heat, and look like blocks of Flanders brick, when they are withdrawn one by one by the man wielding the tongs, who holds them over a large metal tank, and, by a dexterous twist, empties them into the oil with which it is filled.

Having lain at the bottom of the tank for a short time, the pens, which are now sufficiently hardened, are placed in a kind of revolving sieve, and the oil which still remains after draining is expressed by centrifugal force. They are then taken into an adjoining room, where a number of iron barrels revolve on a common axis by steam power. These barrels, which are filled with sawdust, are for the purpose of cleaning the pens from the oil which still adheres to them; and a second series of barrels containing finely-broken "pot" afterwards receive them for the purpose of removing the scale left by the action of the fire. Once more they journey to the upper workshops that they may be ground longitudinally towards the points and then transversely across the nibs: this operation gives the pen the required degree of elasticity, and is technically called "glazing," from the fact of the process being performed by holding them on



emery wheels turned rapidly by steam. This is a very important part of the manufacture, requiring nicety both of touch and sight to judge of the proper degree of grinding required, and it is not a little interesting to stand at the end of the workshop and watch the jets of bright steel sparks springing from the long row of wheels.

One other operation, perhaps the most important of all, and the merely useful processes are completed. This is, the making of the slit, which is effected by levers and dies still moved by the hand by means of upright handles, which give the force and weight requisite to cut cleanly through the hardened steel.

The rapid waving motion of these polished bars of metal as they are pulled and released at each stroke has a singularly pretty effect, looking like a sort of drill at which a long row of female volunteers are engaged; the only drawback to this fancied resemblance being that they are all seated.

The vigorous cleaning and final cutting now gives place to the last two processes, which have the effect of beautifying, and the pens are carried into the shop where they are to be coloured, either blue or brown, a result effected in a few seconds by a still further application of regular heat.

The machine employed resembles an ordinary domestic coffee-roaster, being, indeed, no more than a cylindrical barrel, which a man turns by a long handle, in a raised trough containing a clear fire. At a signal from a companion, who is watching the pens through the open end, he lifts this off at the proper moment, when the brown or the blue tinge becomes apparent, and throws the pens upon an iron plate, where they are suffered gradually to cool before the "finishing" or "varnishing."

This finishing is achieved by placing the pens in a small metal pail with a perforated bottom, which is plunged (after the manner of an ice-making apparatus) into an outer pail or jacket containing a varnish of shellac and spirit. The contents of the inner vessel having been sufficiently saturated, it is withdrawn, and the workman swings it rapidly round and round, as though he were practising the shoulder exercise with a dumbbell. This has the effect of dashing off the superfluous mixture adhering to the pens, which are then thrown into a sieve and shaken rapidly over a warm plate until the spirit is evaporated, and the last clear and beautiful polish announces perfection.

Then they are taken up to the warehouse, sorted, arranged, and placed in the fancy boxes which, having been made on the establishment, are waiting to receive them. Before I go, however, I must devote a few minutes to the manufacture of the "holders," or rather pensticks, which is particularly interesting, though not easily explained.

Almost all the operations connected with the pen are conducted by hand labour, since there is required in the various processes that exercise of intelligence which can never be obtained by mere machinery. Still, the uses to which steam is applied in the works require some sixty-horse power, and no inconsiderable proportion of this is devoted to the stick-making.

The trees and logs of cedar or other wood having been sawn into boards and again slit into thin square lengths, the rounding is managed by a machine in which a tube receives the end of each, which, as it is drawn through to the other side, is subject to the paring of a couple of revolving blades. After this it falls out at the other end perfectly cylindrical although rather rough. The roughness is obviated by another similar machine, and a bundle of the long rods is then carried to a large mahogany slab, through a slit in which is seen about a third part of the disc of a circular saw.

The rods are laid flat upon the table and brought against a gauge which regulates the length. They are then pushed towards the saw and cut into sticks, a dozen or so at a time. These plain sticks have yet to receive the spiral pattern, to have the end which receives the holder reduced in size and the other end rounded. These operations are effected not by cutting but by pressing, and one machine suffices for the purpose. They are placed, perhaps fifty at a time, in a receiver like the top of a coffee-mill, and disappear one by one into a lower chamber, where all this is done by an artificial arrangement of dies, after which they make their appearance in quick succession through a tube, and fall into a box beneath.

The end of the warehouse is occupied by a number of chairs, upon which it is customary for visitors to wait until their turn comes to be shown over the works. For this manufactory is one of the sights of Birmingham, and it not unfrequently happens that so large a number of persons apply for admission that they have to be divided into parties, lest the business of the place should be disturbed. To anybody who has seen the exquisite processes which are so rapidly effected by the machinery in its wonderful adaptations this is not surprising; and there is throughout the workshops such an appearance of lightness, cleanliness, health, and comfort that it seems to wear a sort of holiday air, notwithstanding the constant labour which produces such an enormous quantity. The weekly account of "gross" boxes requires the assistance of the numeration table to write down, while the annual number of pens reaches point after point till it passes "tens of millions," and only stops at "hundreds of millions."

Of this I am heartily glad, and, though I should like to learn what becomes of them all after they are thrown aside, there is no statistical information on that part of the subject. I am glad, also, to know that Mr. Joseph Gillott, the father of the gentlemen with whom I am now sitting, has himself reaped the reward of his untiring industry and great mechanical skill, and that he has the credit (displaying that appreciation of art which is always allied to inventive genius) of having formed at his residence near Birmingham one of the finest collection of pictures in the whole of the midland counties. Amongst these valuable works of art he has several of those magnificent pictures executed by Turner during the various periods which marked his earlier and later styles.

In the course of my journey through the establishment I notice, lying upon a workbench, some pens of exquisite finish, and brilliant as burnished silver. On inquiry, I find that Mr. Gillott intends to send several specimens of his manufacture to the Exhibition of 1862.

#### GLADSTONE'S PECULIAR.

It will be long before the British workman, or even the middle-class Englishman, becomes accustomed to the low-priced beverages, blue in tinge and sourly-astringent in quality, which can be relished only by a Fleming or a Frenchman whose "tap" is necessarily small. Our friend in the Engraving is about to quaff a bumper with more gusto than could be afforded by any other than a regularly-named vintage, and it may be safely calculated that the contents of the flagon have well deserved the attention which he is paying to them. There are other occupations for fishermen beside the care of their nets, and a runlet of the right good stuff may lie beneath the hammock of the old toper, for which he pays no more than his neighbours are charged for their thin potatoes. The whole picture is charmingly executed, and the tone and colour of the work have made it conspicuous in the collection where many more pre-fetitious subjects have, perhaps, attracted less attention.

"WHITE CHOKERS."—The Paris *Sport*, which is the journal patronised by the clubs and by Young France, announces the immediate extinction of the white necktie as a portion of the dress toilet. It seems that the young men of fashion will not go to Paris where this part of the costume is indispensable, and many of the patronesses of high circles have given in to the decision. It appears that a lady of high distinction, who "has the reputation of making the most elegant court in Europe after Queen Victoria," excited the risible faculties of one of the most aristocratic assemblies by offering a most gracious specimen of her talent to the white-necked butler, whom she mistook for the master of the house. A fashionable journal dwells upon the contempt as quite a sufficient reason for the abandonment of the detestable white, and the substitution of rose or ink silk.

#### CONCERTS.

This present year, distinguished as it will be in our history of humanising arts, is the jubilee year of the Philharmonic Society. The newly-decorated room in Hanover-square was crowded on Monday evening by subscribers and visitors, who, if they had been led to hope that the fiftieth season would be worthily begun, were not disappointed. The true object of such a body as this ought to be well considered before the trite and common charge of inactivity is entertained. No doubt, the directors of the Philharmonic stand in the old ways. It would, however, be as ridiculous to expect novelty in their concerts as to look for something fresh in the annual exhibition of pictures by the old masters at the British Institution. Great works of art verify that saying of Keats which people are never tired of quoting, perhaps because it is in itself "a thing of beauty." The function of the Philharmonic Society is to conserve and maintain rather than to originate. Beethoven's Heroic Symphony was rendered on Monday evening in a way to satisfy the most fastidious and exacting connoisseur. The other orchestral pieces were Cherubini's overture to "Vaniska," Weber's "Jubel-ouverture," and Schumann's overture to "Geneveva." Finely as all these were played, however, it must be confessed that they yielded in interest to the performances of Herr Joachim, whose violin-playing when a child was first heard at the concerts of this society, and who, were he not at the head of his order, would yet be welcomed here out of the enthusiasm of old association. In fact, the habitué claim a sort of proprietorship in this great violinist, who, on the occasion of his reappearance among them, played more splendidly and wonderfully than ever. He selected Viotti's concerto in A minor, and a bourrée and sarabande of Sebastian Bach, in both of which he roused his audiences to the highest pitch of admiration. The vocalists were Mme. Guerrabella and Miss Lascelles, whose fine voices were well blended in a duet from Winter's "Ratto di Proserpina."

Herr Joachim again delighted the audience of the Monday Popular Concerts at St. James's Hall, besides playing at the Hanover-square Rooms. He led in Beethoven's F minor quartet, op. 95, and joined Mr. Hallé in the same great master's sonata in G major. The concert was fully up to the usual standard of excellence. Signor Piatto delighted all hearers with his faultless playing of Bocherini's sonata, in which, by-the-by, he has had some practice, having repeated it several times in the course of these concerts. The second movement was encoored with a heartiness which left no room for denial. Mr. Hallé gave Weber's pianoforte sonata in D minor; and Miss Poole and Mr. Tennant rendered the little modicum of vocal music very effectively.

The Musical Society of London aims at purposes distinct from those of the Philharmonic. Instead of keeping before the world, by the fittest means that can be obtained, those masterpieces of harmony which are known by their great worth, the Musical Society rescues from oblivion other and scarcely inferior works which are comparatively unknown, in spite of the same, or nearly the same, high merit. To be sure, this is not the sole mission of the Musical Society, as understood by its members, and the programme of their first concert this season shows that they have also a desire to do full justice to compositions which have not lapsed, or are likely to lapse, into forgetfulness. The most important orchestral work, for instance, which they performed on Wednesday evening was Mendelssohn's symphony in A major, which, although for a time neglected, has for ten years enjoyed celebrity. The first of the four overtures which Beethoven wrote for "Fidelio" comes rather more within the category of unjustly-slighted works, and this noble piece of writing was interpreted in the finest manner by Mr. Mellon's band. The other overtures were that of "Die Zauberflöte" and the introduction to the second act of Berlioz's "Benvenuto Cellini." Herr Joachim played his own concerto in D minor; Mme. Sainton-Dolly sang Mozart's aria, "Dolce corde amate;" and Mme. Guerrabella gave the scene for Maid Marian from "Robin Hood." Both ladies joined most effectively in Handel's duet "Fanti strali." Beethoven's choral symphony will be performed at the second of the series of four concerts, as well as Mozart's concerto in E flat for Mr. C. Hallé and Mr. Stephen Heller.

ANTI-CRIMOLINE MOVEMENT.—We have received a report of a most interesting and amusing meeting, attended by a very numerous and highly-influential body of the ladies of Tyburnia, convened by circular, and held on Wednesday week, upon the subject of the abolition of crinoline, and establishing a society to effect that object. Although the meeting was convened by ladies of high position, with a lady secretary, a gentleman was appointed to preside on the occasion, and he freely expressed his opinion that the present fashion of crinoline for ladies' apparel was a nuisance to the community generally, and a highly dangerous undergarment, and an expensive one to the fair wearers in particular. After quoting from Lord Palmerston and other high authorities, the chairman congratulated the meeting on the large assembly of ladies he saw around him for such a praiseworthy object. The lady secretary and several other ladies spoke upon the danger from fire, as well as on the general inconvenience of crinolines; but the garment found a defender in one young lady, who stated that their dangerous character from fire was about to be obviated by the introduction of fireproof crinolines, made more portable and convenient. It was ultimately resolved that the use of crinoline is inconvenient, ridiculous, and highly dangerous; and that proper steps should be forthwith taken to set these facts before the public to bring about its early disuse. A committee having been engaged to conduct the "Anti-Crinoline Movement," the meeting adjourned.—*Observer.* [Has not our respected contemporary been hoaxed in the above affair? or is he playing off a joke at the expense of public credulity?]

LONDON STREET NOMENCLATURE.—The Metropolitan Board of Works have now before them applications for the alteration of the names of upwards of 4000 streets, roads, terraces, places, &c., in the metropolis, and on Friday week the board decided upon the following alterations being made:—"Fulham-road" to be the whole line of the public thoroughfare from the Bell and Horns public-house, Brompton-road, to Stamford-bridge, to be so called, and the names of twenty-one subsidiary places abolished. "Gray's-inn-lane" and "Gray's-inn-road" the application to name the whole line of thoroughfare from Holborn to King's-cross, Gray's-inn-road, could not be complied with, as there are no thoroughfares of the same name; but the board have ordered the names of thirteen subsidiary places to be abolished, and the whole line of thoroughfare to be called Gray's-inn-lane and Gray's-inn-road. "Albany-road," Camberwell, the whole line of thoroughfare to be so called, and the names of fourteen subsidiary places abolished. In the above and numerous other instances the houses are ordered to be numbered alternately, the old numbers to be on one side, the even on the other.

THE CARNIVAL AT VENICE.—The Carnival of Venice is at an end; it was tolled out by the church bells according to immemorial custom on the night of the 4th instant; but what the Carnival of Venice was, or what was tolled out, is rather difficult to define, since not one mask, except that placed over the muzzle of an Austrian dog, was seen during the whole Carnival. The police, so careful of Venetian liberties that it occasionally imprisons the wrong person, gave orders this year "that the people should not insult the masks," whilst firmly the order ran "that the masks should not insult the people." Insulting the masks! The Austrian dog was the only creature liable to the insult. In vain the police endeavoured to get up an exhibition of painted faces. The secret committee published their order to the effect that the nation was in grief, and any manifestation of rejoicing was inconsistent with the sorrow of the people. The Venetians to a man obeyed the mandate of the committee. Hence the Carnival came and went without riotous, masked balls, without a cavalcade, and without the sprightly imps which formerly enlivened the scene, or the big bellmen who walked round the once-crowded and now desolate Piazza ringing out the lingering moments of hilarity, and summoning the gloomy days of fast and confession. Never was any city more sorrowfully sad in moments usually devoted to enjoyment.

ROYAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.—Her Majesty the Queen has graciously transmitted an additional contribution of £500 in aid of the funds of the Royal National Life-boat Institution. Miss H. B. Cator, daughter of Admiral Cator, has, in conjunction with her friends, collected 200 guineas from 231 ladies to purchase a life-boat, to be called the Princess Royal, after the Crown Princess of Prussia. Miss Cator has handed the amount to the Queen's Life-boat Institution, which has decided on stationing the life-boat at Kingsdown, Dublin.

GEORGE CLARK, convicted at the late Newcastle Assizes of the murder of Mr. Frater, tax-collector, has been respited during her Majesty's pleasure.

#### EXECUTION OF A SLAVE CAPTAIN.—REVOLTING SCENE.

CAPTAIN NATHANIEL P. GORDON, formerly commander of the slave-ship *Erie*, was executed at New York on the 21st ult. The trial took place some time ago, but a respite had been granted by the President in compliance with urgent entreaties addressed to him.

The charge against Gordon was clearly proved. A citizen of the United States, he was accused of importing African slaves in defiance of the Act of Congress of the year 1819, which declares that offence to be punishable with death. But, although this law is upwards of forty years old, we believe this is the first instance in which it has been acted upon. It is notorious, indeed, that a large proportion of the capital employed in the slave trade is supplied by New York, and we are not surprised to learn that a petition, signed by hundreds of merchants in that city, was presented to President Lincoln on behalf of Captain Gordon. In the days of President Buchanan there would have been no necessity for any such demonstration. The unhappy man who has died a felon's death for the crime of trading in his fellow-creatures would have incurred no risk, at least of capital punishment, in the time of Mr. Lincoln's predecessor. This change of policy in the Government of the Federal States is therefore an event of great importance in the history of the slave trade. The news of Captain Gordon's execution will be received at the Havannah, at Lisbon, and on the coast of Africa with mingled feelings of indignation and alarm. The slave-dealers of all countries have long regarded the American law prohibiting the traffic as a dead letter. When we consider the participation of American capitalists, and the systematic prostitution of the American flag in the trade, we need not be surprised at this. But the resolution of President Lincoln to enforce the law at all hazards will necessarily upset all the previous commercial calculation on the subject. We by no means assume that the execution of Captain Gordon will wholly deter the capitalists of New York from engaging in the slave trade. But the traffic will necessarily become much more hazardous than ever. Men only of desperate character will be induced to engage in it. Its profits may be tempting, but the certainty of the gallows in the event of detection will operate upon all except the most reckless adventurers. Nathaniel Gordon was an old offender; the case against him was clear beyond all doubt; and, although he was not directly charged with murder, the Judge who tried and passed sentence upon him truly said that he had caused hundreds of his fellow-creatures to die a miserable death. If an example, therefore, was ever to be made none more fitting could possibly be found.

But though Gordon may have well deserved his fate, and though in carrying out the sentence on the culprit President Lincoln may be rendering a salutary lesson to the men engaged in the unholy trade of man-stealing, there were circumstances connected with the execution which are exceedingly revolting and painful. The *New York Times* thus describes the last moments of the miserable man:—

"As had been the practice heretofore, Mr. Sutton, the warden, allowed Gordon the privilege of walking up and down the corridor. This he availed himself of on Thursday night, and shocked his keepers by singing to them Portuguese songs, and talking of everything under the sun other than that which one would suppose should occupy the thoughts of a man the night before his execution. He then called for writing materials, and sat smoking and writing till near midnight. No evidence of insanity, of fear, or of a just conception of his situation—in fact, of anything except a great fondness for smoking—was given by him during these long hours. At length, about midnight, he lay down upon the bed. His keepers took turns in guarding him, one being in the cell all the time while the other walked the corridor. At last he slept, and so continued until about three o'clock in the morning, when he started suddenly from his bed, looked at his watch, muttered something, and again lay down with his face to the wall. No suspicion of poison entered the minds of the keepers until four a.m., when Gordon was discovered writhing in convulsions, and with every indication of dissolution marked upon his countenance. They shook him, endeavouring to wake him from what might be simply a disturbed sleep, but no waking followed their efforts, and they sent for the medical officers of the prison, who on arriving found Gordon in convulsions, which seemed to increase in violence at each repetition. They applied the stomach-pump, and gave him stimulants. Lockjaw set in, and though the fatal consequences of the poison were averted the painful effects remained, and from half-past four o'clock to eleven o'clock, with but momentary cessation, Gordon suffered torments of the most terrible nature. Whisky was given him every few moments, for the double purpose of restoring vitality and neutralising the pain. He said that he had suffered a dozen deaths since he took the poison, and begged that he might be allowed to die and end his misery. At times, for half an hour, his jaws would be firmly closed, and he could neither talk nor groan. At such times he would write his desires on paper. In this condition, half alive, half dead, nearly under the absolute influence of liquor given for the purpose of saving him, the poor wretch lingered until the legal boundary of his life's career. The feeling in the city was intense. It was rumoured that Mrs. Gordon had supplied her husband with poison, and that he had escaped by that means a felon's death. Crowds gathered about the Tombs, and the greatest excitement prevailed. At twelve o'clock Marshal Murray notified to Gordon that the hour had arrived. At this he expressed great surprise, and said he thought he had but two hours more in which to live. The clergyman entered the cell and prayed with him, or rather for him. Deputy Marshal Borst aided him in dressing, and gave him a large drink of clear whisky. When his arms were tied the black cap was put on his head, and he was carried on the deputy's shoulder to a chair in the corridor. The sight was simply shocking. The man was not sober; that is, so powerful had been the effect of the poison that, in order to keep him alive till the necessary moment, they had been obliged to give him whisky enough to make an ordinary man drunk three times over. He sat listlessly in the chair, gazing listlessly around, while the marshal, with unaffected emotion, read the former reprieve to him. That done, he was helped to his feet, and held there while the marshal read to him the death warrant. Then, with upturned head and an indescribably offensive manner, Gordon said, 'I have a word to say. I die with the clearest conscience of a man who has done, intentionally, no wrong. When a man gets up in court and says to the jury that, if they will only convict a man for him, he will do everything to get that man pardoned, and then goes to the President and begs him to have the man, it's very mean and contemptible. Such a man would do anything to promote his own ends. He is a mean fellow.' These words are understood to refer either to the public prosecutor or to the Judge before whom he was tried. After which he looked around with a senescent smile and asked for some more whisky, which was given him. The procession was then formed, Gordon stalking with a bravado air, upheld by the marshals, towards the scaffold. To a casual spectator it would appear that, exhausted by mental and physical suffering, Gordon was making a great effort to walk manfully to his fate. As it was, however, he had just sense enough left to endeavour to follow out the suggestion of the well-meaning deputy, who told him to die like a man, and to walk to the rope, so that no one could accuse him of fear. When he reached the scaffold he said, 'Well, a man can die but once; I'm not afraid.' The can was drawn over the whitened, meaningless features, the noose-knot was adjusted under his ear, and he stood, an unthinking, careless, besotted wretch, waiting for he knew not what, when with a jerk he went high in the air, and fell to the length of the rope, still senseless, still unfeeling, still regardless of pain or pleasure."

MATRIMONIAL SWINDLING IN FRANCE.—The Tribunal of Correctional Police last week tried a remarkable case of swindling, in which three persons were implicated.—Protin, a "matrimonial advocate," whose advertisements have for some time past been frequently published in the journals; Prosper Mey, a wine-merchant; and Achille Lobey, a commission agent. At the opening of the trial a medical certificate was put in stating that Protin was unable to appear, being at the time in a state of intellectual prostration bordering on insanity. The tribunal accordingly decided that his trial should be postponed, and proceeded with the charge against the other two accused. The principal witness was M. Mismac, a gentleman of property residing at Chantilly. He deposed that in January, 1859, the prisoner Mey came twice to solicit his custom for wine, and the second time complimented him on the beauty of his daughter. He soon afterwards came again, and stated that he was authorised by a friend of his, named Lobey, to make an offer of marriage to Mlle. Mismac. He represented his friend to be the son of a gentleman of considerable property, residing at Boulogne-sur-Mer, that at his father's decease he would inherit about 100,000*fr.*, and that moreover he had an excellent wholesale wine trade, yielding a clear yearly profit of about 15,000*fr.*, and account-books were produced to prove this fact. As the witness still hesitated, he was referred to several parties for information respecting Lobey, and, as all the answers were favourable, he at last consented to the marriage, which was celebrated in April, 1859, and he then gave his daughter 20,000*fr.* as her portion. He soon discovered, however, that he had been the victim of a conspiracy; that the account-books which had been shown him were forged; and that all the persons to whom he had been referred were confederates of Lobey, Mey, and Protin. After spending his wife's fortune Lobey forged several bills of exchange, and in June last was convicted of the forgery and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. It was proved that Protin actually received 2500*fr.* for his share in bringing about the marriage, and it appeared from his books, which were seized by the police, that during the four years he had been a matrimonial agent he had received from 228 persons a total of nearly 40,000*fr.*, and had really effected twenty marriages, but the greater part of the money was paid by persons to whom he had made illusory promises. The tribunal decided that the charge of swindling was fully proved against the prisoners, and condemned Mey to twelve months' imprisonment, and Lobey to three years, with 50*fr.* fine.

HARTLEY COLLIERY is now deserted, and the water has risen above the yard seam.



YOKRIST, Dudley Port, Pipon, Staffordshire. — J. PROVISION DEALER. — W. JONES, Worcester, bot and shoe maker. — H. KELLY, Bourne, Leics. Hants, salt and coal contractor. — E. L. ADAMS, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. — H. B. SPENCER, Birmingham, Warwickshire. — W. P. SPENCER, Wolverhampton, Grocer.



**ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY'S**  
HYACINTH and CAMELLIA SHOW, WEDNESDAY,  
MARCH 19, at South Kensington. Open at One o'clock. Band of  
1st Life Guards at 2.30. Tickets, 5s. 6d. each, can be had at the  
Gardens; and of the principal Librarians, Musicians, &c.—Next  
edition at Feltow, March 21.

**MR. CHARLES DICKENS'S NEW**  
READINGS.—ST. JAMES'S HALL, PICCADILLY.—On  
THURSDAY EVENING, March 20, at Eight precisely,  
MR. CHARLES DICKENS will read his "David Copperfield" (in  
six Chapters), and Mr. Bob Sawyer's Party, from "Pickwick".  
Also, "Body of Hall and Balacony," &c. &c. &c. Tickets, 1s.  
Admission, 1s. Tickets at Chappell and Co.'s, 50, New Bond-  
street.

**MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS, ST.**  
JAMES'S HALL.—Herr JOACHIM'S Third Appearance on  
MONDAY EVENING NEXT, March 17, at which occasion he  
will lead Beethoven's Quartet in A minor, op. 130; Mendelssohn's  
Quartet in E flat, op. 44; and join Miss Arabella Goddard in  
Mozart's Duet in F for violin and piano. Also, Solo, 5s. 6d.  
Admission, 1s. Tickets at Chappell and Co.'s, 50, New Bond-  
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**HERR JOACHIM** will make his Third  
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Admission, 1s. Tickets at Chappell and Co.'s, 50, New Bond-  
street.

**THE OXFORD, 6, OXFORD-STREET.**  
Every Evening, HENRI and PFAU in their intrepid and  
daring feats on the Flying Trapeze; two operatic selections by  
the entire company, full Band and Chorus. Conductor—Mr. F.  
Jochmans. Violin Solo—Mr. Viotto Colini; Ballads, Duets, Four-  
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Per dozen. a.d. a.d. a.d. a.d. a.d. a.d. a.d. a.d.  
Table Spoons and Forks. 36 0 48 0 54 0 60 0 66 0 72 0  
Dessert spoons and Forks. 27 0 36 0 40 0 44 0 48 0 52 0  
Tea Spoons ..... 16 0 20 0 24 0 28 0 32 0 36 0

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